The International Crosby Circle Presents

BING

A legend for all time.

Edited by REG BRISTO

MARCH 1978

NO 49

"Young Crosby, in particular, shows promise..."

(A newspaper review of 1929 covering The Rhythm Boys performance....)

"When the news of his death spread across the world there was a pause. There was, as it were, a moment of silence, a moment of regret that a very special voice had been stilled.... But I think it was not only that very special voice...one had a sense that a personality had gone from us - like a lovable person suddenly leaving a room, and the laughter stops for a moment....."

Canon Kelly -
Westminster Cathedral London
Sunday, 16th October,
1977

The International Crosby Circle:
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"BING" - the official quarterly magazine

....THE LEGEND IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING.....

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Annual Subscription: £2.00 (or four issues); Sterling equivalent for European members. Six dollars for American/Canadian members BUT 10 dollars if air-mail despatch of BING is required. Australian/New Zealand members sterling equivalent but £2 extra if also air-mail despatch is required. As many members suspect, this subscription is artificially low in relation to costs of producing the magazine, postage, mail on queries &c. It is maintained by careful purchase of materials AND, happily, the influx of new members. It can only be maintained, however, if members renew promptly. This is a considerable help in budgetting.

A CROSS IN THE BOX INDICATES YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE WITH THIS ISSUE OR SHORTLY AFTERWARDS: ☐

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----- TRADING POST APPEARS AT INTERVALS THROUGHOUT -----

A warm welcome to the world of Crosbyana is extended to the scores of new members who are reading their first BING; they are reminded that the columns of this magazine are open to ALL to express views, suggestions, ideas, advertise, and so on. Articles are welcome as are letters. That the Old Maestro is no longer with us is still a searing shock...but we will continue to glory in the bountiful legacy he left us by way of records, films, and perhaps most of all his entirely unique personality.

BING MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR MILLIONS.....

EDITORIAL

Christmas 1977 was, for all of us, the Christmas that started an entirely new, and completely unwanted, era. It was the first Christmas of our lives when Bing Crosby wasn't alive and well...somewhere in the world. And Christmas had, over 50 years, become essentially a "Crosby season." Bing, the man who oozed the Christmas spirit, in fact, every day of the year - as a popular song once yearned for all of us to do.

Not that it was a Bing-less Christmas. Far from it...but it was different. Its fundamentally true, of course, that most of us (until Bing in recent years became such a complete Anglophile) had never had the faintest hope of seeing him perform in person, let alone actually meet him. Yet such was his personality, his charisma, we always felt we had a friend around...somewhere. And we felt maybe Bing was going to make a new album, give us some of those inimitable interviews the radio delighted in, that he would be over to play golf, to illumine the race-courses...turn up as guest on a TV spectacular once ina while. Now that has gone - and Christmas 1977 was a forlorn one.

But we have forsworn the maudlin, the lachrymose and the cloying sentimentality. Bing had a great life. Much more importantly he brought cheer to millions...what an epitaph;

A recent letter from a keen admirer bewailed the fact that though he had spent hours on producing his 90-minute SALUTE TO BING tape he finally gave up in despair. "You just cannot get the Crosby talent down in concise form...I mean, how do you describe the TIMES he sang thro'?" We know the feeling well. Even the BBC with 14 episodes are only sketching it! More books are promised and no doubt they will be praiseworthy and meritorious efforts, but.....

To give a few new dimensions to this fabled career we include in this issue a few lists of relevant information. Their dimensions take one's breath away. When one considers that the Crosby career covered at least three main planks - radio, records, and films - the minimum data of which would occupy a thousand pages or more without any accompanying story we are bound to ask: How is this story ever going to be told?

1977 was a good year to leave behind: apart from any personal, individual sorrows and setbacks we all suffered, 1977 was the year which saw the departure, in addition to the Maestro himself, of Bob Roberts, another fine man, just six months before Bing's demise. This too was a stunning blow. But that tragic year was far from finished....in October there was yet another death in the world of Crosbyana that shocked so many. This was the sudden death of our Leeds friend, Mick Drury. Only a week or two before our fateful Leeds function, we had to announce the sad news that Mick's lifelong friend - his window on the world - had died after a painful illness. Within 3 weeks Mick himself had succumbed. He had endeared himself to countless Bing fans with his famous tapes offering commentaries on record choices for the Leeds events. These always exuded incredible bonhomie and cheerfulness - and that in itself was a miracle for Mick's life was one long struggle against congenital deformity of the cruellest kind. It is difficult to resist the thought that, following his friend's death, Mick gave up the struggle.....

Three savage losses in a year - 1977 - we would like to forget but cannot. And will not....

LESLIE GAYLOR WRITES

Firstly, I want to thank the many kind people who have been in touch with me, with both Christmas greetings (which gave us a very colourful sitting-room), small gifts, newspaper cuttings, magazines etc, and so many people who wrote to me about my great experiences at the three recording sessions I attended last September. I much regret I cannot reply to everyone - in some cases, I do not even have their addresses - but I'm so grateful to all of them. There are assuredly some great bonds in our Crosby world - and perhaps more so now that we have to adjust to the fact that the great man has departed this life.

As will have been gathered from my story, I was indeed thrilled to be there, especially when the Old Maestro came and sat alongside me for the "playbacks". I cannot describe adequately how everyone, EVERYONE, in the Crosby presence, as it were, came under that special magic. And I noted with warmth how those magnificent musicians, noted for being blase, also crowded into the playback rooms to hear Bing. As we sat and heard that great, so familiar, voice coming over the specialist equipment we were spellbound with joy and delight....and it is nice to add that we could see the pleasure on Bing's face in that company. He enjoyed being with us, too, it seemed. Especially, when the playbacks finished Bing chatted about his television show in Oslo last August.

> The show, he told us, was 3-hours long and Bing's participation was of 45-minutes duration. Bing estimated that 25,000 people stood in the pouring rain to see him and he seemed gratified that they should do so - and a snatch of this can be captured on the Joe Bushkin album that Bert Bishop talks about in KEEPING TRACK.

I have also had considerable mail from many countries about the SEASONS album - mostly enraptured with the whole thing - sound, sleeve notes by Ken Barnes, and especially the front photograph. But it has to be said that one number in particular did NOT find too much favour - SLEIGH RIDE. Its a seasonal, sleigh-bells number of course and it seems the lengthy orchestral passage in the middle detracted from the appeal - and as many point out, much of the tuneful melody is missing. And surprisingly, IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME didn't rank highly either. But all in all, the Ol' Master went out with a tremendous album. And it is clear everyone is grateful that Bing did it.

> I mentioned to Kathryn Crosby at the Palladium that I had been present at this recording and that Bing had been in tremendous form. "Do you know, Leslie," she said, "as he's getting older so he really seems to be getting better!"

Which only underlines the shocking tragedy of October 14. We will continue to enjoy the rich voice of Bing but there will be no new albums. Bing was so durable, right to the end....but as we made plain in the last issue of BING - and I know our Editor is humbly gratified at the warm acclaim it was accorded - with his mortal time come, Bing must have been a happy man. Britain, Norway, his final recording burst, fanatical audiences, golf, short and painless. Yes, a lot for us to be thankful about.

I've been inundated with offers to buy Bing 78s from people expecting a fortune from them - and I know most of our people have, too. Why, I even saw a dozen nondescript 78's (I use the term relatively) at - £40 each! These people must have soon realised that while every Bing record is precious, it is not necessarily so in THEIR sense. Happily, Bing's records always sold so prolifically that except for about a dozen, they cannot be described as particularly rare. And especially so, bearing in mind the prolific reissue of 78s on LPs. But the sheer get-rich-quick aspect of some of these offers has been deplorable and struck, with us, a sour note.

I sent copies of the two Bing tributes, A TRIBUTE TO BING and A GUY CALLED BING to the Crosby office and in double-quick time I had a request to mail another 7 copies of each, one of each I understand was for Kathryn I was delighted to note.

Good luck to Phil Clarke who, as you will read elsewhere in REGIONAL PROJECTS, has instituted his Southern Bing Crosby tribute club.

> A recent letter from Ken Barnes tells me that he has been awarded a silver disc for the UK sales of the SEASONS album and that he was confidently awaiting a Gold disc for world sales of the record. I know all members will be delighted for Ken - and delighted that Bing's final album has, under his direction, been so successful.

I also learn that Ken is proposing a new book on Bing which could easily prove the definitive one and that publication in October of this year is the target.

Due to pressure from so many directions my contribution to this issue is somewhat brief. I'm sure members will understand - so, once again, my thanks to so many kind people who show that the legend of Bing Crosby is, perhaps, only just beginning.....

Editor: Leslie is the universally-acknowledged No. 1 fan - a well-merited courtesy title I feel, though many of us are so described in local newspaper and radio features and perhaps we feel we are! - but it is a title I readily surrender to Leslie of the Isle of Wight. His personal closeness to Bing, coupledwith his years-long devotion, means that Leslie's world was, to an extent, shattered at the grievous news of Bing's death. I know we all were - and indeed, are - but for the reasons given the blow to Leslie was particularly severe. I've said before, but it stands saying again, I just do not understand how Les copes....his letters are all handwritten, and he replies to every letter he gets. The number he has directed to the Circle is legion...he provides details of records, films and all kinds of Crosbyana. And, like all of us, also does an exacting, full-time job as well!

> Les's note about the get-rich-quick operators who have come across half-a-dozen scratchy, cover-less 78s of well-known Bing songs is very valid. I too have had scores of such offers - as if the offers were Heaven-sent! I suppose its bound to happen, but it is nauseous.

Leslie is apparently getting a lot of requests about Crosby albums that are freely available here, being British-released, and asks me to list at least the following.

BINGO VIEJO: A SOUTHERN MEMOIR (both on LONDON label of Decca): AT MY TIME OF LIFE/BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES/THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT/BING AND FRED ASTAIRE all on UNITED ARTISTS, as is BING "LIVE" AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM tho' marketed by K-Tel: MR. CROSBY AND MR. MERCER/BING SINGS THE GREAT SONGS/BING & CO/BING AND THE ANDREWS SISTERS all MCA: A MUSICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BING CROSBY (5 records) MCA; THE VERY BEST OF BING CROSBY on WORLD RECORDS (7 LP-set); TOM SAWYER on Decca's ARGO a 3-LP set: CHRISTMAS IS A'COMING on MFP (EMI) - and BING 1931-75/6 a 2-album set also on Decca.

And as you will gather from KEEPING TRACK, many others are appearing and no doubt will continue to do so. In fact, even the most "modern" record shops have had to reinstitute a BING CROSBY browser! Oh, and we can add A CHRISTMAS TOAST (the reissue of A TIME TO BE JOLLY - plus HEY JUDE! but we can't go on like this - hurry on to KEEPING TRACK with Bert.

BING'S MUSICAL ACCOMPANISTS

In the "old days", it seemed, that if you bought a Bing 78 the accompaniment was directed by the illustrious John Scott Trotter, or the no less eminent Victor Young - the former was responsible for about 334 of Bing's recordings, while Victor for around 254.

But, for posterity, Bing made recordings with all the following and they constitute yet another extraordinary dimension to the Crosby recording career:

1. Louis Armstrong.
2. Gun Arnheim
3. Irving Aaronson
4. Sonny Burke
5. Banda da Lua (Mexican)
6. Dave Barbour
7. Les Brown
8. Jay Blackton
9. Roy Bargy
10. Perry Botkin
11. Buddy Bregman
12. Joe Bushkin
13. Bugs Bower
14. Buddy Cole
15. Camarata
16. Xavier Cugat
17. Don Clark
18. Helen Crawford (organ)
19. Bob Crosby
20. Nathan Van Cleave
21. Carmen Cavallaro (piano)
22. Eddie Condon
23. Alan Cohen
24. Ralph Carmichael
25. Dorsey Bros.
26. Tommy Dorsey
27. Jimmy Dorsey
28. Ivan Ditmas (piano)
29. Eddie Dunstedter (organ)
30. Ken Darby
31. Paul Durand
32. Duke Ellington
33. Count Basie
34. Lehman Engel
35. Ray Ellis
36. Nat W. Finston
37. Percy Faith
38. Robert Farnon
39. Ernie Freeman
40. Jimmy Grier
41. Johnny Green
42. Eddie Heywood
43. Bob Haggart
44. Lionel Hampton
45. Lennie Hayton
46. Woody Herman
47. Jack Halloran
48. Ipana Troubadours.
49. Isham Jones
50. Louis Jordan
51. Bill Justis
52. Pete King
53. Johnny Keating
54. Joseph Lilley
55. Sam Lanin
56. Guy Lombardo
57. Malcolm Lockyer
58. Dick McIntire
59. Lani McIntire
60. Matty Matlock
61. Matty Malneck
62. Grady Martin
63. Russ Morgan
64. Lyn Murray
65. Billy May
66. Lionel Newman
67. Alfred Newman
68. Pete Moore
69. Arthur Norman
70. Sy Oliver
71. Paradise Island Trio
72. Les Paul Trio
73. Jack Pleis
74. Mishel Piastro
75. Don Redman
76. Simon Rady
77. Nelson Riddle
78. Georgie Stoll
79. Morris Stoloff
80. Harry Sosnick
81. Vic Schoen
82. Axel Stordahl
83. Bob Scobey
84. Paul Smith
85. John Scott Trotter
86. Frankie Trumbauer
87. Bob Thompson
88. Jack Teagarden
89. Joe Venuti
90. Frank de Vol
91. Paul Whiteman
92. Anson Weeks
93. Fred Waring
94. Paul Weston
95. Victor Young.
96. Bennie Kreuger.

(Notes overleaf.....

The vast majority of these musical directors are, of course, American so perhaps it is worth noting the exceptions - who are British, of course; altho' there is at least one Frenchman, Paul Durand!

Alan Cohen, who did such a great job on FEELS GOOD, FEELS RIGHT; Pete Moore who, with Ken Barnes, virtually started the whole 70's rennaisance. The first British conductor, however, was the late Malcolm Lockyer, who conducted for the HOLIDAY IN EUROPE album in the early 60's. It is only fair to state that doubt has been cast as to whether these London recordings with Malcolm Lockyer were actually used for the album or whether Bing did, in fact, re-record the titles on his return to America. Bob Farnon is Canadian, but resident here and conducted for the ROAD TO HONG KONG numbers.

Not all of Bing's recordings are covered by this list, however, for some of his early 78s were labelled as "With Instrumental Accompaniment", or "With Orchestral Accompaniment". These were invariably directed by Victor Young or Lennie Hayton.

> And of course, records that must not be overlooked are those by The Rhythm Boys on their own bat - that is, without Paul Whiteman's Orchestra.

The majority of Bing's recordings were made, of course, for Decca with which company Bing stayed astonishingly loyal. It would have been a very natural development if Bing, among all his business ventures, had launched into the record business. With himself as the main attraction it must have been a highly successful project - it is common for some stars, and "stars", to form record companies themselves once they have an assured market, especially nowadays. But Bing linked himself with Decca and the invaluable Jack Kapp, and stayed with that company through the major - and perhaps most successful - part of his incredible career.

In much the same way it will be seen from the list of films included in this issue that Bing exhibited similar loyalty to Paramount though it must be conceded Bing did make one or two ventures in the picture-making business. Other times he was "loaned" by Paramount to other prominent companies. But to all intents and purposes, Bing stayed with Paramount which company, of course, launched Bing's first major, or important film, "The Big Broadcast" of 1932. That is, if one ignores KING OF JAZZ and I think one is entitled not to regard that as major to Bing's film career bearing in mind the comparatively minor part he took in it. Others may disagree, of course, but "The Big Broadcast" (1932) coming as it did quickly after Bing's sensational first coast-to-coast broadcast, establishing him as a meteoric radio star, made a big and lasting impact throughout the world.

However, we are digressing from records. Alas, the LPography and the projected mini-discography are a help with the above list of musical directors but to trace each one requires the full discography which we hope to reprint. One day!

It may be worth recalling, while on the subject, that Jimmy Dorsey was the predecessor of John Scott Trotter on Bing's radio programmes. I often find myself wondering what the outcome would have been had Jimmy Dorsey not felt the urge to carry on with his own "star" band career - and had stayed with the world's supreme vocalist?

And in speaking of Bing's incredible recording career, one name inevitably comes to mind - Bing's guiding genius Jack Kapp....

But that is a subject we deal with elsewhere.....

BING'S VOCAL ACCOMPANISTS

When deprecating his own efforts, and shrugging off the "legend" tag, Bing always made a point of relating how while he had done precious little, he HAD listened to good advice.....

He often proclaimed how he had made good investments through brother Everett - "the wrong Crosby" as Bing says Everett became known for his hard bargaining; how he had "learned" from the great musicians he said he had been privileged to work alongside, especially in the earlier days. And Bing, as regards his films, said he always insisted on sharing the star-billing with others - so that they could share the "blame" as Bing whimsically put it; and of how he could learn something from his brilliant partners. And in the recording field he had - Jack Kapp. It would be a churlish Crosby collector who did not recognise that in this field Bing had indeed been well served. Jack guided Bing's career on record with an unerring sense of what was right and proper. And it was his avowed intention to present Bing's voice in every field of popular singing. We know, from Bing himself, how he demurred when Mr. Kapp first told him he was to record SILENT NIGHT. Bing was most reluctant - "I haven't the stature for that kind of semi-religious song." - but Kapp insisted. Mind you, this was in 1936 or earlier. That most of the proceeds in the way of royalties from the phenomenal sales of SILENT NIGHT went to charities is another story that need not concern us here.

Thenceforth, as Bing related, Kapp had him singing WHERE MY CARAVAN HAS RESTED, BRAHMS LULLABY, JUST A'WEARYING FOR YOU, and ultimately THE PEACE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, THE STARS & STRIPES FOR EVER and all kinds of compositions that Bing never thought he would sing. All this in addition, of course, to the songs of the day, his film songs, his jazz songs, his ballads, Hawaiian, Latin American, hymns, carols. The full spectrum of melodious song.

And, perhaps because of Bing's phenomenal solo output, it was Jack Kapp's avowed intention to, not dilute, but perhaps "mix" Bing's efforts. This was achieved by countless duets, though such efforts were not confined to a single partner as will be seen from the list that follows. It comprises a list of the people who sang with Bing on commercial records! Note the commercial label, for on radio Bing sang not only with these listed but countless others. And we really mean countless. But the following appeared on commercial records with Mr. Crosby vocally:

1. Fred Astaire
2. Louis Armstrong
3. Jeff Alexander Chorus.
4. The Aristocrats
5. Patty Andrews
6. The Andrews Sisters
7. Ann Blyth
8. Wm. Bendix
9. Connee Boswell
10. The Boswell Sisters
11. Gary Crosby/Philip/Denis/Lindsay..
12. Cass County Boys
13. Crinoline Choir
14. The Chickadees
15. Joan Collins
16. Cantinflas.
17. Jud Conlon's Rhythmaires/Choir
18. Rosemary Clooney
19. Calico Kids
20. Jimmy Schnozzle Durante
21. Sammy Davis, Jnr.
22. Ken Darby Singers
23. Trudy Erwin
24. Rhonda Fleming
25. Frying Pan 5
26. The Foursome
27. Gordon Lee Singers
28. Judy Garland
29. Guardsmen Quartet
30. Mitzi Gaynor
31. Girls Octet
32. Glee Club
33. Bob Hope
34. Dick Haymes
35. 4 Hits and a Miss
36. Louanne Hogan.
37. Sir Cedric Hardwicke
38. The Jesters

39. Louis Jordan
40. Al Jolson
41. Dorothy Kirstein
42. Grace Kelly
43. Danny Kaye
44. Evelyn Knight
45. The King's Men
46. Peggy Lee
47. Dixie Lee
48. Frances Langford
49. Frank Lovejoy
50. Muriel Lane
51. Norman Luboff Choir
52. Ken Lane Singers
53. The Merry Macs
54. Mills Brothers
55. Dean Martin
56. Mary Martin
57. Johnny Mercer
58. The Mello Men
59. Jeane Maire
60. The Morganaires
61. Betty Mullins
62. The Music Maids/and Hal
63. Donald O'Connor
64. The Padre Choristers
65. The Rhythmettes
66. Al Rinker
67. Debbie Reynolds
68. Carole Richards
69. The Song Spinners
70. Frank Sinatra
71. Trudy Stevens.
72. Sportsmens' Glee Club
73. The Skylarks
74. Three Cheers
75. Mel Torme (and the Meltones)
76. Three Shades of Blue
77. Jack Teagarden
78. Max Terr Chorus
79. Loyce Whiteman.
80. Jane Wyman
81. Williams Bros (including Andy at 14)
82. Orson Welles.
83. Lee Wiley
84. Nan Wynn

And, of course, Kathryn, Mary Frances, Harry, and Nathaniel on account of their appearance on the "live at the Palladium" set.

Once again, a formidable list of participants in the Crosby recording career. Some of them, it is true, fleeting - and some, such as Frank Lovejoy and Orson Welles, in non-singing roles.

Looking at this list again one cannot but recall what Bing said to Leslie Gaylor recently, looking him straight in the eye: "Muriel Lane? I've never heard of her!" Well, it was a long career - and there WERE a lot of people involved!

A LETTER FROM KEN BARNES TO LESLIE GAYLOR opens up a new dimension in what may become available on record:

> "...while in New York I took a plane to California and listened thro' the entire Bing-Buddy Cole library. Basil Grillo and Nancy Briggs arranged access to the tapes and RCA furnished me with a listening-room. I don't have the list in front of me but I think there was a grand total of 277 songs. Not all are good and some of the tracks have become very dated, but I remember selecting 95 songs that are really worthwhile as far as records are concerned. Up to now, this list doesn't include any of the material with Rosie Clooney - which I hope to cover on my next trip, sometime next month (March). For the most part, the quality is excellent...generally speaking the accompaniments are dated, but we should be able to embellish these with modern brass, strings and rhythm additions. BING'S VOICE, AT ALL TIMES, IS BEAUTIFULLY FOCUSSED. It is now up to RCA to say whether or not they want to release this material. My feeling is they will....it will then be a question of how many sides.
>
> .....SEASONS NOW QUALIFIES FOR A GOLD DISC which will probably be presented with the next month...."

This again is tremendous news from KEN BARNES for it has long been known there was a vast store of these recordings and the possibility of issuing some of it has excited members for some years. Mostly dating from the 50's Bing was in superb voice and with Ken Barnes at work in this storehouse the prospects now seem good.

Over the hills and . . .

by DENNIS BLAKE

HE MET BING

Went along to a club last week to see one of the best artistes around — Roy Chappell. Not only did I go along to see Roy perform, but to get his story of how he met one of the world's best loved and respected film stars — an actor and singer who has given everyone a lot of pleasure over the years.

Little did Roy or I realize as we sat chatting in his dressing room that before I could finish writing his story, our subject would have passed away. It was of course Bing Crosby who collapsed and died in Spain after playing a round of golf.

Anyone who knows Roy Chappell — and just about everyone in show business does — will agree that when you hear him sing you would think it was the 'Old Groaner' himself.

Roy was telling me that after leaving school, he started to follow Belle Vue Aces and as soon as he was old enough he rode for them himself for quite some time. Then he joined the famous recording band of Syd Phillips as lead singer and in 1962 he was given the address of the International Bing Crosby Fan Club by the bass player. And so it was that after travelling hundreds of miles to see Bing (which he did six times) he finally met him at Belle Vue in September this year, close by the dirt track he had ridden on.

● Bing and Roy

It happened that Roy was standing in a bar and a chap went to him and said he was a big fan of his and would he like to meet Bing. Roy thought he was joking but it turned out that the man was Bing's chauffeur. Anyway Roy was introduced to Bing in his dressing room by Steve Laraby from Liverpool and Bing said how pleased he was to meet Roy, as his recording manager, Ken Barns, had told him that Roy ..ept plugging the song that Ken had written for him which was "That's What Life Is All About".

After the chat, they walked outside ready for Bing to go on stage and as they walked up a ramp the spotlights came on and before they both realized it, they were almost on stage.

Frank Randle's son, Arthur Delaney, that well known painter and Les Pearson, Compere from the Wilmslow British Legion, who were in the dressing room with them had a good laugh at the way they were both so engrossed.

Both Roy and Les said what wonderful people Bing and his wife Kathy were to talk to and how thrilled they were to speak to them.

Roy appeared at the London Palladium and gave a tape that he made with Rosemary Clooney "You Took Advantage Of Me" to Bing's youngest son who said he would play it for his dad when they got home.

If anyone has never seen Roy and they liked Bing I recommend them not to miss him. He is not just a singer but a mimic and a comic as well. He has worked with Ken Dodd for a season at The Spa in Bridlington and with Syd Phillips and his band.

I know that with his Crosby style of singing he will bring a lot of pleasure and nostalgia to people who mourn the loss of Bing Crosby.

TRADING POST

Here is the feature wherein members may advertise for records, tapes, books, pictures, Crosbyana in general ----------

Advertising is free but items should be kept as brief as possible - say a maximum of half-a-dozen lines. Should there be a long list of records in question request a SAE for lists which members should then supply to enquirers and would-be buyers. As in all things Crosby we rely on the integrity of members as to descriptions of condition of records &c. and rely on that integrity for fair dealing among members. Apart, however, from expressing that sentiment we cannot take responsibility for transactions arising from advertisements placed here:

MIKE SLIPMAN, 153 Francklyn Gdns, Edgware, Midd'x HA8 8SB has all the new Bing Crosby issues available including Biograph, BIAC, Sunbeam, NWD, Spokane, Totem and some of the Japanese records. SAE for list.

GARETH R. DAVIES, The Briars, 48 Woodfield Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4AF offers 50 free copies of his intriguing composition, DOCTOR'S LULLABY. Send SAE....this is a very kind offer of Gareth, much appreciated.

ARTHUR WILLIAMS, 30 Dobson Rd., Normoss, Blackpool, Lancs is anxious to obtain Kraft Music Hall shows prior to 1938. He also has 2 LPs - PHILLIPS BBL 7335 SAY ONE FOR ME and BING AT HIS EXTRA SPECIALE AV. INT. 1018. Offers invited. (The second of those 2 albums contains Bing's first solo broadcast of Sept. 1931)

S. COPPEN, 68 Maxey Rd., Dagenham, Essex has the following for exchange: AROUND THE WORLD 45rpm MU1010; ALI BABA and the 40 THIEVES, 6" Vinyl US 78rpm, BING 'N BASIE DR 2014; RENDEZVOUS Ints. 1047 (Bing and Rosie); YOU MADE ME LOVE YOU (AL JOLSON MUP 324); HOLLYWOOD SINGS VOL 3 THE BOYS AND GIRLS CP98. Wants: HOLIDAY IN EUROPE, 101 GANG SONGS PT. 1; SOME FIND OLD CHESTNUTS: HOW THE WEST WAS WON.

"Young Crosby fan, 25, eager to strike up regular correspondence with another young fan. I am particularly interested in the fantastic records of the young Bing, e.g. the MANY HAPPY RETURNS type of album - JOHN DEVLIN, 5553 Queen Mary Rd., Apt. 18, Montreal, Quebec, CANADA 43X 1W1." - well, chance for a nice Transatlantic contact - Editor. I imagine John will welcome letters from ANY where, not only Canada itself.

Can anyone help MRS. M. HEMMINGS with a copy of KATHRYN'S BOOK - "Bing - and Things" - 3 Grosvenor Ave. Oakhill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 5BQ.

EDWARD STURRUP, 3 Griffin Way, Sunbury, Midd'x: Can anyone supply:-

1. A tape recorded from Radio London on New Years Eve, which I understand started at 7.10 pm thro' to 9, presented by David Carter - on Bing, of course.
2. A tape from last year's Royal Command TV performance which featured Bob Hope &c.
3. The Family or Windmill label LP LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND BING CROSBY LIVE.

Grateful for any help.

YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER MAKES THEM EASIER TO COLLATE AND GOES A LONG WAY TO ENSURING PUBLICATION

NEIL ROBINSON, 39 Southdown Ave., Brixham, Devon: has moved to this address from Burton-on-Trent on account of his wife's help and would much like to hear from members in the Torbay area, having lost many of his erstwhile contacts, on matters Bing.

TRADING POST CONT. AT INTERVALS THROUGHOUT.....

BING'S FILMS

The following is the complete list of the films Bing appeared in for the cinema as opposed to TV films. To add notes concerning this formidable list would require an encyclopaedia; brief notes are as follows, however:

(G) indicates guest appearance, i.e. in a Bob Hope film, often very brief.
(P) indicates a promotional film. (S) indicates a sporting "short"; golf mainly. And of course this list does not include newsreel appearances.
(n) indicates narration, or commentary only.

"Two Plus Fours"	1929	RKO-Pathe
"Ripstitch the Tailor"	1929	RKO-Pathe
"King of Jazz"	1930	Universal
"Check and Double Check"	1930	Radio Pictures
"Reaching for the Moon"	1930	United Artists (brief (G)
"The Romantic Rivals"	1931	Pathe (doubts exist about this film)
"I Surrender Dear"	1931	)
"One more Chance"	1931	) The famous and melodious
"Dream House"	1931	) "Mack Sennett" shorts.
"Billboard Girl"	1931	)
"Sing, Bing, Sing"	1931	)
"Blue of the Night"	1931	)
"Confessions of a Co-Ed"	1931	Paramount ("Her Dilemma" in Britain)
"The Big Broadcast"	1932	Paramount
"Hollywood on Parade"	1932	Paramount) Two "shorts" which
"Hollywood on Parade"	1932	Paramount) included Bing.
"Please"	1933	Paramount
"Just an Echo"	1933	Paramount
"College Humor"	1933	Paramount
"Too Much Harmony"	1933	Paramount
"Going Hollywood"	1933	MGM
"We're Not Dressing"	1934	Paramount
"She Loves me Not"	1934	Paramount
"Here is my Heart"	1934	Paramount
"Mississippi"	1935	Paramount
"Two for Tonight"	1935	Paramount
"The Big Broadcast of 1936"	1935	Paramount (one-song scene)
"Star Night at the Coconut Grove"	1935	MGM (one-song scene)
"Anything Goes"	1935	Paramount
"Rhythm on the Range"	1936	Paramount
"Pennies from Heaven"	1936	Independent/Columbia
"Waikiki Wedding"	1937	Paramount
"Swing with Bing"	1937	Universal (S - golf)
"Double or Nothing"	1937	Paramount
"I ctor Rhythm"	1938	Major/Paramount
"Don't Hook Now"	1938	United Artists (S - golf, but one song)
"Sing you Sinners"	1938	United Artists
"Paris Honeymoon"	1938	Independent/Universal
"East Side of Heaven"	1939	Paramount
"The Star Maker"	1939	Paramount
"Road to Singapore"	1940	Paramount
"If I Had My Way"	1940	Universal
"Rhythm on the River"	1940	Paramount
"Road to Zanzibar"	1941	Paramount
"Birth of the Blues"	1941	Paramount
"Angels of Mercy"	1941	Metro-Tone ("P" - Red Cross film)
"My Favourite Blonde"	1942	Paramount ("G" - Hope film)

cont...

"Holiday Inn"	1942	Paramount
"Road to Morocco"	1942	Paramount
"Star-Spangled Rhythm"	1942	Paramount
"Dixie"	1943	Paramount (Bing's first colour film)
"Going my Way"	1944	Paramount
"Here Come the Waves"	1944	Paramount
"The Princess and the Pirate"	1944	Sam Goldwyn-RKO ("G" - Hope film)
"The Road to Victory"	1944	Warners ("P" - promotional war film)
"Duffy's Tavern"	1944	Paramount
"Road to Utopia"	1944	Paramount
"Out of this World"	1945	Paramount
"All-Star Bond Rally"	1945	20th Century Fox ("P" - money-raising)
"Hollywood Victory Caravan"	1945	Paramount "P" - money-raising)
"The Bells of St. Marys"	1945	Rainbow/RKO Pictures
"Blue Skies"	1945	Paramount
"Welcome Stranger"	1946	Paramount
"Variety Girl"	1946	Paramount ("G" - Bing/Bob one-song scene
"My Favourite Brunette"	1947	Paramount ("G" - Hope film)
"The Emperor Waltz"	1948	Paramount
"Road to Rio"	1948	Paramount
"A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthurs Court"	1948	Paramount
"Top o' the Morning"	1949	Paramount
"The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad	1949	Walt Disney ("N")
"Riding High"	1949	Paramount
"Mr. Music"	1950	Paramount
"Here Comes the Groom"	1951	Paramount
"Angels in the Outfield"	1951	MGM (fleeting appearance in baseball film)
"The Greatest Show on Earth"	1951	Paramount ("G" - brief)
"Just for You"	1952	Paramount
"Son of Paleface"	1952	Paramount ("G" - Hope film)
"Road to Bali"	1952	Paramount
"Little Boy Lost"	1953	Paramount
"Scared Stiff"	1953	Paramount ("G" - brief scene at end)
"White Christmas"	1954	Paramount
"The Country Girl"	1954	Paramount
"Anything Goes"	1955	Paramount
"Bing Presents Orestes"	1955	Paramount ("P" - for Orestes, opera singer
"High Society"	1956	MGM
"Man on Fire"	1957	MGM (Bing's first non-singing film)
"The Heart of Show Business"	1957	Columbia ("N")
"Showdown at Ulcer Gulch"	1957	Shamus/Calhane "P" (TV and few cinemas)
"Say One for Me"	1959	Bing Crosby Productions/20th Century Fox
"Alias Jesse James"	1959	United Artists ("G") Hope film.
"High Time"	1960	Bing Crosby Productions.
"Let's Make Love"	1960	20th Century Fox ("G" brief scene)
"Pepe"	1960	Columbia ("G" appearance)
"Road to Hong Kong"	1961	Melvor/United Artists (only film made in Britain)
"Robin and the 7 Hoods"	1963	Warner Bros.
"Stagecoach"	1965	20th Century Fox
"Cinerama's Russian Adventure"	1966	"N" - travelogue.
"Bing Crosby's Washington State"	1967	"P" extolling the state of Washington - narration.
"Dr. Cook's Garden"	1973	TV film, not shewn in cinemas.

Excerpts from Crosby films have been shewn in various "specials" and collections, e.g. THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT. The Mack Sennett shorts were linked into THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD. Any anthology of Hollywood, any film extolling the history of that fabled film city in its golden age is bound to include scenes and shots Bing. But it is felt that

such inclusions do not come into the category of BING'S FILMS, interesting and well worth seeing though they may be.

The milestones in this tremendous film career are there to see. There are those, true veterans, who remember Bing's appearance in KING OF JAZZ though your Editor is not one of them. And we all view that film with an entirely different eye these days! It was a historic film in any case for apart from Bing as a Rhythm Boy, it was the vehicle for seeing so many of the legendary musicians of the Whiteman Orchestra - and it was almost certainly the first full-length film to feature an orchestra.

> And nowadays when the film crops up on TV everyone remembers that Bing was "let out of the cooler" to play his scenes! And that if that hadn't been the case, Bing might easily have sung SONG OF THE DAWN and possibly delayed John Boles's stardom!

But for those almost as veteran, the big milestone was 1932's THE BIG BROADCAST which afforded us the first really good look at this singing phenomenon, Bing Crosby. To many, his appearance came as a surprise - not unpleasant, but a surprise. That big, masculine voice had built up in many an imagine of a tall, dark, rugged individual. And instead, we saw a just-slightly rotund, average height, fair-haired troubadour! The songs from that film remain as memorable as ever: PLEASE, HERE LIES LOVE, DINAH, I SURRENDER DEAR, [redacted]ERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT. And though our attention was rivetted on the incredible Crosby, the film afforded us the opportunity of seeing the artists whose names were on all lipds the, being as they were the "first generation" of world-famous radio stars - names which live on today if not with quite the lustre of Bing's - Boswell Sisters, Mills Brothers, The Street Singer (Arthur Tracy), the unforgettable comedy team of George Burns and Gracie Allen, Donald Novis, and the bands of the highly entertain Cab Calloway and Vincent Lopez. One wonders if the film still exists - and how it would look to us today.

There followed a string of lovely, musical films, with songs which have become standards - as the epic record issue, BING'S HOLLYWOOD 1-15 amply illustrated; the years were incredibly busy ones for Bing with anything between three and six films a year! It is invidious to pick out any of these 30's films, perhaps, but certainly PENNIES FROM HEAVEN and WAIKIKI WEDDING must stand out the former for its outstanding songs as indeed the latter, with its Hawaiian-slanted melodies. Indeed, this film was the one which is alleged to have produced Bing's first million-selling record - SWEET LEILANI. Though no real Crosby admirer will ever accept that it was so late that a Crosby record sold a million and the Crosby office has confirmed in recent years, despite published lists of "golden records " that songs such as LOVE IN BLOOM, JUNE IN JANUARY, PLEASE and many others sold in millions. Not so much attention was given to "charts" data in those days!

Certainly a profound milestone was ROAD TO SINGAPORE - first of the Road films; the first time, of course, Bing was teamed with the buddy who became his equally legendary partner in the films which largely dispensed with script - and direction! Nothing further need be said at this stage on the Road films - except that they continued at intervals until 1961 after starting in 1940; and incredibly, a final one had almost reached finalisation in planning when Bing died.

Perhaps we could revert for a moment and suggest that WE'RE NOT DRESSING, with May I?, Love Thy Neighbour, Once in a blue moon, She reminds me of you, Goodnight lovely little lady, I positively refuse to sing and others must surely be one of the most richly-melodied Crosby films of all time? Though it must be admitted, other views will be held. Competition was keen for all Bing's films had songs tailored by the foremost craftsmen. Some will claim that as late as 1956 HIGH SOCIETY took the "most-melodious" title.

BIRTH OF THE BLUES was a splendid film, portraying the early comparatively care-free days of jazz with Bing thoroughly at home - of course! Then the partnerships with Fred Astaire, the assumption in so splendid a fashion of the priest, Father O'Malley which brought him his Oscar despite Bing's oft-repeated assertion that he brought nothing to the acting profession - except by playing himself. But that was enough, surely.

So Bing continued his musical way thro' films, year after year until the time came when Bing did indeed aspire to acting honours - and one noticed a regrettable tendency to sing less and less in films! We saw the boose-laden "wretch" of THE COUNTRY GIRL, and the sombre son-seeking father of LITTLE BOY LOST.....both powerful changes from the hitherto singing-fun-loving troubadour. While Bing never proclaimed - in the classic style - that the singing-joker wanted to play Hamlet, he did virtually end his film career (in the cinema sense) with a non-singing powerful acting role - that of the inebriate doctor in the re-make of the classic STAGECOACH.

It was argued then and since that it was a mistake to try and remake such a film bearing in mind the impact the first version had made; wherein, forsooth, Thomas Mitchell had won an Oscar for the role Bing ultimately came to play. Whatever the merits of the argument, Bing acquitted himself in great style in a role that had nothing at all to do with music or singing. Even so, it is doubtful if those who had seen the 1939 STAGECOACH could watch the 1965 portrayal without willy-nilly comparing each scene with the original. And even if one hadn't seen the original it has been shewn so many times on TV - and rightly so for it WAS a great film - that that means everyone was familiar with STAGECOACH. It was a pity really for the second version was excellently done, with quite a strong cast. But it might also be borne in mind that by the middle 'Sixties the cinema had largely surrendered to TV and the wonderful palaces of cinemas had become the less wonderful palaces of BingO!

So, just a few random thoughts on Bing's films though as was stated at the start, an enormous tome would require to be written to analyse them in great detail - as indeed, has already been done in the near-epic THE ROAD TO HOLLY-WOOD of which Fred Reynolds was the chief architect.

Perhaps we might end with a mention of those often hilarious "few-seconds" scenes that Paramount saw fit to adorn Bob Hope's films. The Crosby-Hope rapporte (or "feud" as it was often put) was so established in the public mind that to see one without the other seemed wrong. It was a happy idea to insert just a glimpse of Bing into the Hope films - to the "horror" of Bob.

Bing's contribution to the glorious years of Hollywood was indeed substantial.

We mustn't conclude this all-too-modest feature on Bing's films without reference to the very unusual film OUT OF THIS WORLD of 1944/45. Unusual because a singer of Bing's unique stature permitted his voice to be dubbed over on the soundtrack when the film's star, Eddie Bracken, appeared to be singing. Bing was away in Europe when the film was being made - and his four sons appeared in the film. The only "credit " Bing received came in the ending when Bracken looked into the camera and said:

"Thanks, Bing!"

So, strictly speaking, this wasn't a Crosby film as such.....

IN THE BEGINNING

The precise date of Bing's birth has, astonishingly perhaps, never been ascertained.

Here, FRED REYNOLDS contributes an exclusive but perhaps still inconclusive analysis of the possibilities - and incidentally, we're delighted to have this distinguished Crosby researcher gracing our pages again.....

Over the years there has been a great deal of speculation about the true date of the birth of Bing Crosby. Several dates have been suggested and there are numerous examples of sources and authority, or lack of it, from which to choose. Among those who may be considered to have had some genuine information on the subject the following will bear some examination.

LARRY CROSBY: I have a tape recording of Larry affirming that Bing was born on 2 May 1901 but that didn't stop Paramount from thinking that it was three years later.

TED AND LARRY CROSBY: In their book "BING" they say that in July 1906 Harry Jr was five years old. (They also say that at that time sister Catherine was three which, the mathematicians in our midst will readily grasp, means that she was born in 1902 or 1903.

TED CROSBY: In his book "THE STORY OF BING CROSBY" Ted repeats that Harry Jr was five years old in July 1906 but says that sister Catherine was then two, meaning that she was born in 1903 or 1904. (The significance will not escape biologists).

BING: In "CALL ME LUCKY" the mystery deepens: in the US edition the date is, Bing claims, 2 May 1904 - but the UK edition shows 30 May, 1904.

Now let us consider the writings of some of Bing's biographers:

Dr J T MIZE: In "BING CROSBY AND THE CROSBY STYLE" Dr. Mize says that Bing was born on 3 May, 1903 and Catherine in 1904. He adds: "Consistent with a general...practice.. some of Bing's Hollywoodian publicity releases reduce his age by a year. Officially, Bing was never born: at least, his birth was not recorded with civil authorities. According to the parish records of nearby Saint Patrick's Church Harry Lillis was baptised there on 31 May 1903."

BARRY ULANOV: In "THE INCREDIBLE BING" Ulanov says that Bing was born on 2 May 1901 and sister Catherine in 1904.

CHARLES THOMPSON: For his 14-part radio series Charles Thompson interviewed scores of people but, in his book "BING" comes no nearer to solving the problem than saying the date of birth was 2 May 1901 or 1904.

KEN BARNES: In "SINATRA AND THE GREAT SONG STYLISTS" Ken says that the date was 2 May 1901 or 1904 depending upon the source of reference.

It was with some surprise, therefore, that I saw the implication in Ken Barnes's

notes to the SEASONS LP that Bing had been born on 2 May 1903 (which nearly accords with Dr. Mize). In a subsequent conversation with Ken he confirmed that it was no typographical error; he had been informed by no less than Bing's daughter, Mary Frances, that a birth certificate had been found showing that date. Furthermore, Al Rinker - the last surviving member of The Rhythm Boys - had told him last year when he, Rinker, was seventy years old, that although Bing had been a few years his senior it couldn't have been as many as six or they wouldn't have met at College. Unfortunately, however, Al didn't know Bing's exact age. This seemed firm, if not conclusive, evidence but I find intriguing the fact that if Rinker was born in 1907 he was, in 1921, managing the "Musicaladers" at the age of fourteen.

> About two weeks after my conversation with Ken I received from the USA a photo-copy of Bing's baptismal certificate and I think I can safely assume that this is the certificate referred to by Ken Barnes as a "birth" certificate; it surely must be the parish record revealed by Dr. Mize. The certificate shows that Bing was baptised at St. Patrick's Parish Church, Tacoma, on 31 May 1903 and born on 3 May 1903.

The spelling is Latinised, the month being shewn as "Maii" and his name as "Henrieum Lilllis" and the entries are handwritten. In the left-hand margin there is another handwritten endorsement: "married Olive Kathryn Grandstaff October 24 1957". Information that I received with the copy certificate is to the effect that the office of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's Division of Vital Statistics could trace no birth certificate. The absence of any reference on the baptismal certificate to Bing's first marriage was attributed to an omission of notification by the parish in which the marriage took place.

The document seems entirely valid; even the Godparents are listed and Father Marquart, the present parish priest, said that he is certain the birth and baptismal dates are accurate and that Catholic Church records are accepted in court.

It now appears, therefore, that this is the most concrete proof that will ever become available as the event of Bing Crosby's birth was never civilly registered. But apart from the doubt that has long enshrouded the year, it is remarkable that everyone but Dr. Mize, and that includes parents, brothers, sisters, biographers, reporters et al, were also one day out. Unless, of course, Bing happened on the stroke of midnight....

As Fred says this "mystery" has always existed and to be frank, we haven't concerned ourselves unduly over it. But now that Bing is dead it would, for the sake of posterity, be appropriate if the date could be finally ascertained. Seems it will never be that, although there is an overwhelming probability (as opposed to certainty) that the date was, in fact, 2 May 1903.

> Younger readers may well be asking: Doesn't America have a "Somerset House" the same as we have wherein all births, marriages and deaths, are BY LAW, recorded. Well, it does now. But even in this country there was a time, not all that long ago relatively speaking, that local church, or parish, records were the ONLY such records. Your Editor had personal experience of this rather surprising situation when endeavouring to confirm his mother's birth-date some 30 years ago. The baptismal certificate - distinct as Fred points out - from a birth certificate was the only record kept. On the other hand, they were diligently and carefully kept. What happened to anyone who was not baptised, presumably, was that they never officially existed!

And now, those same younger readers wi[illegible], having easily identified Bing's brothers, Larry and Ted and of course, Ken Barnes and Chas. Thompson, be asking: Who is Barry Ulanov - and Dr. Mize? And how can we get their books?

> The immediate answer, alas, is, ruling out a miraculous stroke of luck, you cannot! They have long since disappeared from print; tho' having said that, they may easily reappear in this particular period as updated reissues.

While Ulanov's book was highly readable, that by Dr. Mize was quite astonishing in its analytical detail concerning Bing - and the Crosby style. It was written around 1946 and one can only now conjecture what would have eventuated had Dr. Mize - a Doctor of Music by the way - waited another 10 or 20 years before writing his analysis of the Crosby style. Among other things, he took complete songs and anlysed every phrase, every broken note, every bridged or slurred note, every facet of diction and nuance. At least, the good doctor considered the Crosby voice worthy of such study even then.

To Bing.....

Your voice to me was the breath of Spring,
Your songs to me meant everything.
A shadow crossed my life today...
I heard that you had gone away.

RIP - Remembered always: Geoff. Chappells, (Leek, Staffs)

T R A D I N G P O S T (cont): ERIC MOORE, 5 Irwell House, Aigburth Vale, LIVERPOOL L17 0EE has the following 78s for sale by "auction", i.e. 2 weeks after receipt of the magazine Eric will examine bids made and inform all members of their success or failure - and as to whether they may make a second choice: Brunswick 78s 1308: 1480:1563:1596:1992:2179:2263: 2270:2320; 2389:2485: 2618: 2640:2678: 2681: 2713:2714: 2779: 2786:2787: 2881: 3010: 3044: 3079: 3142: 3171: 3300: 3418:3528: 3523: 3554: 3565: 3569:3587: 3634: 3635: 3699: 3753: 3758: 3782: 3809: 3822: 3827: 3982: 4108: 4113:4114:4124: 4454: 4489: 4622: 4833.

RICHARD SELWOOD, New Buildings, Milverton, Somerset: Tape exchange of Bing, many General Elec; Chesterfield: Philco: film soundtracks &c. also Jolson, Hancock, etc. etc. Write for list..SAE

GEO. M. HARWOOD, 5 Glebe Rd., Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 9DS is prepared to tape, on excellent equipment, for members by arrangement. Write with requirements, enclosing SAE.

G. A. Jones, 26 Dainton House, Brunel Estate, Gt. Western Rd. London, W.2. makes a similar offer. Enclose SAE.please.

"....we went to see Bing at the Kings Hall, Manchester, Belle-Vue but it wasn't much of a king's hall for the King...But Bing was quite fabulous and we got a beautiful programme too that we (my father and I) will staple into our scrapbook...I was wondering, Mr. Bristo, if you could tell us where to get CALL ME LUCKY?.." 13-year-old Miss Helen Cain, 14 Windsor Rd. Prescot, M'Side...

Such is Crosbyana! Grievously, I cannot tell Helen where to get Bing's book. Can anyone help please?

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IT"

..the telling remark of KEN BARNES regarding the shock of October 14, 1977 - - - -

A view adopted too by NOEL MOULD. Many members would have been very intrigued at the mention by Les Gaylor, in his so-interesting story of the recording of the SEASONS album, of Noel arriving in the studio towards the end of the album recording for Bing to record some poetry readings. Here he tells us the story himself.....

With the dreadful news on that bleak October day of 1977 - the death of that great man Harry Lillis Crosby, came the end of an era; the end of a career that was second to none. The most beloved voice of all time had finally been stilled.

To most people - millions of them - Bing had always been there, and to me he always will be. In quoting my friend Ken Barnes - "Bing...dead?.; You don't have to believe it if you don't want to..." there is, paradoxically, a truism. Certainly that philosophy holds true to the multitude. But to those of us who came to know him a little better, a little personally, it is a different situation altogether. Let me recount some of the events just before that terrible day.

Early in 1977 during an exchange of letters with Bing I asked him if he would be interested in doing a few poetry readings which would be set to music - light classical music and, according to CALL ME LUCKY would be favourites of Bings.

> Bing replied: "I don't think they would be a commercial proposition but you certainly have my permission to go ahead and try". This I did. Speaking to Ken Barnes on the telephone I told him of what Bing had written and Ken told me he would try and fit it into one of the Seasons sessions. So it was arranged that they would be recorded about mid-September in London at the CBS studios.

The week-end before I was due to fly from Ireland to London to do the recordings, Bing and I chatted on the phone from his flat. I gave him a rundown on my final selections and it was quite a long and highly enjoyable parley - and, of course, it was a very much-appreciated gesture on Bing's part.

The final session for the SEASONS album turned out to be September 14, as Les Gaylor described in the last issue, and it was the arrangement that the poems would be recorded immediately Bing had finished the songs. The original intention was to issue them to the various Crosby clubs around the world. But more of that later.

I flew to London on the Monday, September 12 and this gave me a day or two to have a look around all the usual haunts for discs, books, etc and on Tuesday I rang Ken at the studios for a final check on the time that would be most suitable for me to turn up there.

Next day, at the appointed time, I presented myself at CBS and was directed to the studio being used for SEASONS - there was no doubting

that I was at the correct one because Bing's voice was coming out loud and clear in the control room. SUMMER WIND was being taped - and what a job Bing was making of it. It seemed incredible that a man of his age could still have such delivery and volume. Here was the man I had admired virtually all my life and who, for such a long time, was only a voice to me. How far-fetched it would have seemed in those days if someone had told me that the time would come when I could call myself a friend of Bing's, leave alone work with him. But, it was true all right. Here we were in London and I was actually watching Bing record. Pure, unadulterated magic.

> I found myself dwelling on the past for a short time...seeing the now aged Bing at work. I thought of him in his prime; pictured him recording STARDUST, PENNIES FROM HEAVEN, SOON and so many others. Yet even at this late stage of his career the scenario could not have been that much different from those far-off days. Certainly Bing was older, and the equipment was undoubtedly that much more sophisticated but what mattered most was that the magic was still there. How little we knew that this was the final session.

When Bing had completed his "voice-over" on the SEASONS track the session was at an end. As Leslie Gaylor indicated in the last issue, Ken Barnes asked Bing to do SEASONS again because young Steve Taylor said the microphone settings in California (where, of course, Bing had first sung the song) were different from those being used in London. At first Bing said he'd never heard of the song! "But Bing," expostulated Ken, "you recorded this song fairly recently in California!" Bing was jesting, of course, and went on to give a flawless performance. As you can hear on the album.

Ken told me of a moment of alarm earlier when Bing had arrived in the studios and said he couldn't remember where the poetry-scripts were! They were not, Bing said, where he had left them the previous night. Eventually they were found - in Bing's dressing-room.

On the completion of SEASONS, Bing boomed thro' the speakers: "Let's do the poetry..." so I quickly joined him in the "box" and we went over the selected poems so that Bing could make HIS choice. We were in business, as they say!

The first to be recorded was a lovely piece called AROUND THE CORNER, quite short but poignant. As so many others have been, I was amazed that with no rehearsal worth talking about Bing read as if he knew it all his life. Next came a piece by Longfellow called THE SINGERS; then Bing went on to do IF by Rudyard Kipling; LUCY GRAY by Wordsworth and lastly THE SLAVES DREAM by Longfellow. A couple of slips occurred on this and they will need careful editing to correct - we had run out of studio time by then and there was no chance of recording it again.

Still, Bing had done it. Done me proud and I was to say the least, tremendously grateful that he had taken the time to help a nobody like me.

This was the end of quite a momentous British visit once again and Bing shook hands all round, thanking everyone in turn for all their help.... I followed him down the corridor and asked him if there was anything I could do for him....."Thanks..but I'm okay," he said cheerily. Then he was off. I watched him till the last moment and although I was thrilled and extremely happy, there was just a touch of sadness as I watched him disappear for it was, as was shewn in the last issue, in some of our minds "Maybe this is the last time....."

And this time, it WAS the last...tho' I did speak to Bing on the telephone

just a couple of days before his death.

> When the album BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES came on the market I rang Bing and told him of an idea I had to boost the album here in Northern Ireland - that I would talk to him via the telephone and during the interview we would play over the air from our station - Downtown Radio - various tracks from the album. "That's fine Noel, do you want to come up to the flat and do the interview?"

I replied that a chat over the 'phone would be fine - "Okay, when you wanna do it?" said Bing, and I assured him any time to suit him would be fine. "How about tomorrow morning then about 10.30?" Bing answered, and I told him that would be fine - "OK then Noel, I'll hear you again tomorrow" ended Bing and rang off.

Next morning I got everything ready in the studio and a colleague who is also tremendously interested in Bing declared that he would dearly love to talk to Bing via the telephone. As he had been a big help to me in my Bing activities I told him I would arrange it. Thus my friend Bill Smyth was landed, right out of the blue, the opportunity of a lifetime! It was agreed that I would do the first part of the interview with Bing and then hand over to Bill to complete it

PANIC STATIONS!

I should mention that due to technicalities connected with a broadcast via the telephone I reckoned it would be advisable to ring Bing a few minutes earlier than arranged to explain to him the way we had to do it, i.e. when he was asked the question he was to pause for 4 seconds before replying.

> But each time I rang Bing's flat the number was engaged! And to my consternation it stayed that way right up to the deadline - 10.30. And when I spoke to him he explained that knowing I was coming thro' for a broadcast, he had taken the phone off the hook in case someone had rung him and we couldn't get thro'! What thoughtfulness...

The interview subsequently went very well indeed and we were lucky to get a very good line and Bing came over loud and clear. During our chat I got Bill to ask Bing if he had ever been in Northern Ireland. Bing said No, he hadn't - but did we have somewhere where he could sing - a cricket pitch or something? This actually was a point I took up later.

After around 15 minutes it was all complete and the tape was taken away to be edited and the full content, with records, to be worked out. Due to other business I did not get the chance to hear the final tape until the night of the actual broadcast - just a couple of hours before it went out over the air. To my utter dismay I discovered that I had been eliminated from the programme! The engineer told me that my voice wasn't taken up by the microphone satisfactorily and as I wasn't available at the studio Bill Smyth asked "my" questions! Naturally, I was extremely annoyed at this development, but it was then too late to do anything about it.

Finally the programme went over very well. We played five tracks from the BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES album; WHITE CHRISTMAS; AH! SWEET MYSTERY OF LIFE, AN APPLE FOR THE TEACHER, KITTY OF COLERAINE, ISLE OF INNISFREE and a couple of others.

> And this leads me to a special plea: The chap who recorded it for me did not do a very good job, I'm afraid. Did any N. Ireland member happen to record the programme? If so, I would

....

appreciate very much a better copy.

Bing asking about singing in Belfast! Too good to be true. Still, I took it up with him, asking him if would indeed be interested in bringing the family and the company over to Northern Ireland? Get me some figures, said Bing, and talk to me again. So I rang impressario Jim Aiken in Belfast and told him of the possibilities. He was most keen and I left the proposition with him. He rang me the next day and told me that the huge Kings Hall was available on October 10 and could accommodate some 5,400 people.

Armed with these impressive figures I telephoned Bing at his flat - "October 10," said Bing, "I'm sure I gotta date on that day!...hold on, I'll check..."

> BING CAME BACK AND SAID "SORRY NOEL..I GOTTA DATE IN BRIGHTON ON THAT DAY, THEN I'VE GOTTA FEW THINGS TO DO BEFORE GOING TO SPAIN FOR A BIT OF GOLF...."

To say that I was disappointed would be a laughable understatement...but Bing went on: "I tell you what, Noel, we'll do it next year; contact me at home in Hillsborough in a while and we'll arrange it all."

> We continued chatting for a while but my mind was full of "BING IN BELFAST". To think Bing was willing to come to our war-torn country. It was incredible...BING IN BELFAST! Then I heard Bing saying: "I'll see you next year, Noel... Aloha..."

When the news of Bing's projected visit broke I was inundated with calls for tickets; no doubt about it, this was going to be one hell of a day for Belfast. People from both sides of our separated community together under one roof to be entertained by the greatest of them all - Harry Lillis Crosby - BING!

OCTOBER 14th...

On that sad day, a friend and I left home around 7.30pm for an evening out..a few drinks..a chat. After a visit to a pub or two we got to our "local". As we entered there was a hush, everyone present fell silent until a voice said 'Your old pal is dead Noel...' Some kind of a joke, I thought - a very sick joke. 'Aye, he's dead...Bing Crosby has died..." said someone else. The hush was understandable - I rang home immediately and my wife told me the press and BBC and Downtown Radio were looking for me...I lost no time getting home to answer all the calls from 9.30 until well after midnight, including items for broadcasting...

But it was like a dream, still is...Wasn't real. Yet the memory of that night seems burned into the brain. On the radio I remember saying, when asked about Bing's intention to visit, "I think he felt that the time was right for him to come here....he knew we were in a war-type situation. Remember what he did for the troops in the Second World War. And I think Bing felt things were getting better here - but its a terrible pity that it cannot now happen...." I'm not ashamed to say that I was too choked with emotion to continue.

So, as the whole world learned, the most loved voice of all time had been silenced. Bing was dead....Bing Crosby was a true gentleman; a loner in some ways, as has been said, and he had his little idiosyncracies just like everyone else. But he was an intensely human being. Truly one of the best and one thing is certain: his like will not be seen again. He counted among his friends Royalty, Presidents, the aristocracy, bishops, tradesmen, racing-track layabouts, paper boys and especially, perhaps, the ordinary working man and his wife. I'm reminded of a couple of lines from one of the poems that he recorded for me:

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much,
If you can fill the unforgiving minute with
sixty-seconds' worth of distance, run,
Yours is the earth and everything in it,
And - what is more - you'll be a man my son.

Bing dead? You don't have to believe it if you don't want to: Ken Barnes, October 14, 1977)

There is a possibility now that the poetry readings will be on a memorial album if Ken Barnes gets the all clear and includes them on the 2-LP set. At the moment it is in Ken's good hands. And despite being said many times before, it will stand repeating, that we all owe Ken Barnes a great deal, not only for the way he handled Bing's late surge of recordings but also for his unfailing kindness to members of the ICC. Bing liked him - and that's good enough for me - for all of us, I imagine.

As a final postscript from Noel Mould:

On the night of Bing's death Downtown Radio repeated the 50th Anniversary programme on Bing that I did on October 18, 1976 - this programme was described in detail in BING a spell back. And the week after Bing's death I did an hour-long programme on his big-band days, featuring such evergreens as NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS, WAIT TILL THE SUN SHINES NELLIE, BLACK MOONLIGHT, LOVE IN BLOOM, ST. LOUIS BLUES, HO-HUM, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A BEAUTIFUL BABY, SNOWBIRD. I did not dwell on the fact that Bing was no longer with us. At the start of the programme I gave a short tribute and thereafter I spoke of Bing as tho' he was still with us. And that's the way it was - and is.

Editor: A new, and moving, slant on the tragic news and one which will considerably intrigue our members. Could Bing have brought his civilising influence, his tremendous fellowship, to bear on that terror-stricken Province? Even one completely non-political, non-sectarian, not anti this, nor pro that...must have viewed the prospect with tremendous interest, not unmixed with a degree of apprehension. Noel himself opened the prospect of both sides of the divided town under one roof - listening to the legend of Bing Crosby. Surely it would have proved perhaps the most momentous of all Bing's fabled concerts. We'll never know.

As for the poetry readings, most Crosby admirers appreciate the Crosby voice in such a role and it is certainly to be hoped that they find their way onto an album for us - and for posterity.

And a little personal PS to Noel, after thanking him for his fine story, cannot a perfect copy of the broadcast be obtained from the "master" with Downtown Radio?

CLUE in THE TIMES crossword puzzle of February 13, 1978:

2 Down: A crooner fellow in Oxfordshire. Answer: A-BING-DON

(Dick Nettleton)

MY GOOD FRIEND, BING CROSBY

by HARRY TOBIAS

The veteran, and celebrated, songwriter tells how Bing, during the great depression years of the 30's, played a very important part in his song-writing career.

I first heard Bing sing on the radio in 1931 from the Ambassador Hotel with Gus Arnheim's Orchestra. The song was I SURRENDER, DEAR. I got an idea for a song that I thought would make a great follow-up title to the song he sang. I went down to the Cocoanut Grove at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles where Bing, Harry Barris, and Al Rinker were featured in Arnheim's band as the Rhythm Boys.

I spoke to Harry Barris and told him I thought I had a great follow-up title to I SURRENDER, DEAR entitled AT YOUR COMMAND. He liked the idea and introduced me to Bing who approved. The next day the three of us met at the home of Harry Barris and wrote the song.

> Bing introduced the song at the Grove and then recorded it with Barris on the Brunswick label. I attended the recording session. When Bing sang AT YOUR COMMAND on the radio program, he created calls in the music stores from coast to coast overnight. As a result of this demand, Jack Robbins, a prominent music publisher rushed to the coast from New York and paid us one thousand dollars advance royalties for the publishing rights to the song.

The next day, Bing, Barris and I ran to the bank to cash the check, and "How We Ran to the Bank!" One grand in 1931 meant an awful lot during those depression days.

During 1931 Bing featured WHAT IS IT?, then recorded I'M GONNA GET YOU with the Gus Arnheim band for Victor. He was the first to record SWEET AND LOVELY on the Brunswick label and I'M SORRY DEAR on the same label.

Charles N. Daniel (Neil Moret), an outstanding composer of hit songs in that day, wrote the tunes for SWEET AND LOVELY and I'M GONNA GET YOU. Bing was also the first to introduce SAIL ALONG SILV'RY MOON on his Kraft Radio show and recorded it on Decca Records in 1937. The late and great Percy Wenrich, composer of WHEN YOU WORE A TULIP, PUT ON YOUR OLD GREY BONNET and MOONLIGHT BAY among other hits, wrote the melody and I wrote the lyrics.

My brothers Carlie and Henry and myself wrote a song called MISS YOU in 1929 which was originally recorded by Rudy Vallee and became our first three-way Tobias Brothers' Hit. Bing recorded it again on Decca in 1942 and this revival put it on the hit parade for many weeks.

In addition to MISS YOU, Bing also recorded six of my brother Charlie's songs including JUST A PRAYER AWAY, TRADE WINDS, LITTLE LADY MAKE BELIEVE, ROSE O'DAY, etc. Other songs of ours that he featured on his Kraft Music Hall radio show were: ROLLEO ROLLING ALONG (The Bicycle Song), NO REGRETS, LOVE IS ALL, LOST AND FOUND, WAIT FOR ME, MARY and others.

I will always treasure the following wire Bing sent me on my Eightieth

(80th) birthday, September 1975: at a party in my honour -

DEAR HARRY

VERY SORRY I CAN'T BE WITH YOU BUT I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS HIGHLY DESERVED TRIBUTE. YOU HAVE DONE MUCH FOR POPULAR MUSIC AND WE ARE ALL IN YOUR DEBT.

(Sgd) BING CROSBY.

The sound of his voice will live on as a legacy, recorded in the hearts of all the lives he brightened with his God-gifted talents.

My tribute to Bing? WE'LL ALL "MISS YOU".....

HARRY TOBIAS.

Editor: The veterans among us will readily recognise that grand old man of song-writing, Harry Tobias - and the part he played in Bing's career. Perhaps the story of AT YOUR COMMAND is told for the first time. In addition to the songs Harry mentioned, he was also co-author of songs such as IF I KNEW THEN, GOODNIGHT, MY LOVE, LONESOME OLD TOWN and many, many others.

As indicated, Harry was one of three brothers - Charlie, two years junior wrote the lyrics of songs such as DON'T SIT UNDER THE APPLE TREE, WHEN YOUR HAIR HAS TURNED TO SILVER, ROSE O'DAY, and LAZY, HAZY DAYS OF SUMMER.....

We're grateful to Harry for writing this for us and take this opportunity of wishing him many, many more musical years - and listen to AT YOUR COMMAND with a fresh slant!

MARY JOINSON of Werrington, Peterborough heard Charlie Chester read a poem to Bing on BBC-radio, written by Pauline Ransley of Doncaster (not an ICC member). Mary wrote to Mr. Chester and received a copy of the lines:

Bing Crosby, we loved you - we'll never forget,
Though you've gone, in our hearts you'll remain with us yet...

You were warm and romantic - so tender and real,
And you seemed to express all the things that we feel.

I heardMoonlight Becomes You it Goes with your Hair,
And I was, in a moment, your lady so fair....

For in spirit you're here, with us still, I believe,
And that magic of old you continue to weave...

Yes, we'll always remember, and find you, I pray,
Where the blue of the night meets the gold of the day...

BBC-2 6 Nov. 1977.

There was an excellent story about a Mrs. MARGARET RAINBOW and her Crosby collection in TIT-BITS recently. She has around 2000 records and a Bing-room, it seems and, from reading this story, a very understanding outlook on Mr. Crosby..."I've always believed that once an artist like Bing has finished his show, or recorded his song, that his private life is his own..." Thus she does NOT belong to any fan club... Nevertheless, we would very much like to get in touch with Margaret. Apart from knowing she lives in Solihull, however, we have no precise address. Can anyone let us know please?

REGIONAL PROJECTS

There is apparent a growing desire to form regional branches of the ICC in order that social evenings, record evenings &c. may be held at regular intervals. This would be a most happy - and logical - development.

We told recently of MR. TOM EVANS of Willenhall, Staffs, who was anxious to contact pre-War members of a Crosby society he helped to found. Very quickly he located FRED EYRE who was his co-organiser at that time - and Fred tells us he married the former Emily Turner who came from Hull and who was also a member of the Crosby club. In fact, it seems there were quite a few romances in those days!

MIDLANDS MEMBERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING TOGETHER WITH TOM EVANS should contact him at 84, Brereton Road, New Invention Willenhall, Staffs, WV12 5LR.

And such promotions would have our delighted approval and get full publicity &c. in these pages. And your Editor would be delighted to attend, as circumstances permit, any functions that are arranged.

So, those in the Midlands, or who can reach them fairly conveniently, should respond to Tom Evans. And that area certainly embraces a lot of members!

In Similar vein, MR. PHIL CLARKE, 69 Walden Rd., Stamshaw, Portsmouth, PO2 8PH, Hants is already conducting meetings of Crosby people in the south of the country, and we have glowing reports of their social aspects and the Bing content.

Anyone within reachable distance is invited to get in touch with Phil....

WHILE IN THE NORTH EAST, our old friend FRANK MURPPHY is promoting and pursuing his new interest, THE BING CROSBY PHOTO CLUB with characteristic zeal. The next "tribute" function is on Sunday March 19 next from 6pm to 10.30pm at THE ROYAL STATION HOTEL, Neville St., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Tickets are 60p from Frank at 32 Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, TYNE & WEAR, NE28 7NE. Frank will be "in charge" assisted by Sam Warman. There will be a private bar and light refreshments plus records and tapes galore, including a "record sale" bar. Admission limited to 250 and you MUST get your tickets in advance.

The Photo Club has a vast range of Crosby pictures - much too vast to list here now and these are available to all members of the ICC. Write to Frank, enclosing SAE, for details if you are a photo-collector.

Intending guests should state, in their application, their favourite (or one of their favourite) Bing records..... This issue of BING should reach you in time to get there if you so desire.

FRANK MURPHY is also editing BING PICTORIAL, a magazine complementary to BING - and as some aver you cannot have too much Crosbyana it is to be welcomed. Membership is £2.50p a year, or four issues; six dollars ditto.for American/Canadian members. But it is emphasised that photographs can be obtained simply through your membership of the ICC.

DENNIS L. FRANCIS, 2 Havering Close, Great Wakering, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS3 0AF would like to organise local meetings &c. of members in that area. We cannot supply names and addresses, as some would-be organisers ask, simply because some members, rightly, object to it. BUT WE ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO PUBLICISE SUCH EFFORTS IN THIS WAY.

CROSBYANA ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

consists of interesting items as they originally appeared....

You have already seen the fine story, not to mention the photograph, of our own ROY CHAPPELL with Bing. Roy, as we have told before, is a full-time professional artist who frequently sings like Bing from sheer admiration, not so much a desire to "cash in", as you might say. After years of such admiration, and efforts to meet Bing, Roy's fortunes suddenly changed in astounding fashion, as you can see. But for years Roy has been plugging Bing in his act, referring to Bing's songs he was singing, the films they came from etc. etc. and always insisting "Bing is the Master!" We were delighted at Roy's ultimate reward. What a souvenir he now has!

On the page opposite you can see what must have been one of the last handwritten letters by Bing, written to our member TONY HARRISON of Hastings. So firm and clear is Bing's hand that there is no need to "translate" the letter - addressed from The Savoy, London, as you can see. Tony once drew Bing for our front cover, you may recall. Another great souvenir, which Tony values above price.

On the following page you will read a story about PETER MONAGHAN of Glasgow - plus a picture of Peter with some of his records as it originally appeared. I must confess this story and picture surprised me for when I've been in touch with Peter I have formed the idea that he was a 30's man, so knowledgeable is he of the master! I was also intrigued to learn from this story that Peter is a signalman at Glasgow Central - surely a most onerous job. To the left of the story about Peter is a "leader" article from a newspaper, alas, we have lost the identity! But as it refers to "our own Barry Fitzgerald" is was probably the Sunday Independent of Ireland. At bottom right is a whimsical little letter from a non-member of ICC.

There follows the picture which needs no explanation or embellishment. When we saw this first we were certain it had to be used - but dismayed because we saw Bing's face was in shadow and therefore most unlikely to reproduce. But use it we just had to....Bing's stance is quite unmistakeable. And the caption speaks for itself. Bing was invited to spend time at Heathrow by British Airways and Concorde was a "natural".....

After this we have the LANCS ROSE FOR EVERGREEN BING, picture and story of Bing's triumphant concert at the Guild Hall, Preston last year. Under the "Lancs" story is a piece from an American paper commenting on Bing at the London Palladium; the letter headed ONLY ONE BING is by our member RALPH GIBBONS.

Then there is a highly off-beat whimsical piece about Bing in FINAL CURTAIN ON FIRST ANTI-ROMANTIC, and you can see where it originated. The item about choirboys in the Crosby Christmas show coming from Sutton and Banstead will interest Surrey readers in particular. On the right of this page is a straight-talking piece from Bing..which surely exemplifies his own way of living.

Finally is the page devoted to WHITE CHRISTMAS TRIBUTE TO BING (a most unusual one, too); a newspaper letter BING CROSBY IN A CLASS OF HIS OWN by Mrs. Joan Wyatt of Leicester. The other story, RELAXED IN THE GRESHAM MINUS THE HAIRPIECE explains itself and its origin.

It goes without saying how grateful we are to members who keep us in the picture with what appears in their corner of the world

Yes, getting back to the top of the page, it was Roy Chappell who appeared in OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS last year when, though singing beautifully, he did not over-do the Crosby qualities he can turn on!

THE SAVOY LONDON

SAVOY HOTEL P.O. BOX 189 STRAND LONDON WC2R 0EU
Cables SAVOTEL LONDON WC2 *Telex* RESERVATIONS 24234 MESSAGES 24235
Telephone 01-836 4343

Dear Tony - Thanks for your letter and for the sketch - which is very nice indeed. I hope you liked the opening show. It was a little rough in spots, but it will get smoother as we go along. I think you'll like the T.V. show. The people at the studio have seen it and are quite enthusiastic.

All the best

Bing

Sad Dean pulls out of Royal show

By JAMES GREEN

DEAN MARTIN has withdrawn from Monday's Royal Variety Performance at the London Paladium.

Lord Grade, who is co-producing the show with Lord Delfont, said today that it was because of the death of Bing Crosby who was to have been in the show himself.

Said Lord Grade: "Dean Martin has modelled his singing style on Crosby and was so upset by Bing's death he has decided to cancel his engagements for the rest of the year."

His place will be taken by American comedy impressionist Rich Little.

The show will be seen on British and American TV.

Bob Hope paid a brief and simple tribute: "There was a man supposed to be with us tonight, a man who meant a lot to the world and to me.

"He was my partner in those Road pictures and probably the greatest entertainer we have ever known."

Then he asked Mrs Crosby and Harry to take a bow.

She told me later: "Bing said we would come back for the Royal Show—and here we are."

Sitting dressed in black in the stalls and escorted by her son, Harry, was Kathy Crosby, widow of Bing—who was to have made his Royal Variety debut on the show.

MAURICE CHANTREY, 177 Ken House Rd., Beckenham, Kent has failed to get the SAINTS & SINNERS lp (Bing's 'bloopers') from the recognised specialist shops. Can anyone help with a spare copy please?

AUCTION OF BOOKS, POSTERS, DISCOGRAPHIES OF THE LATE BOB ROBERTS:

Anyone interested in possessing some of the above rare and valuable items should, in the first instance, send a SAE to Eric Griffiths, 31 Badgers Way, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1TP. A list of items will then be sent to the applicants with further details.

LEONARD A. WORTLEY, 46 Perebrown Ave. Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk has the following Brunswicks in good condition for offer: Zing a Little Zong/The Maid of Guadalupe; All She'd Say was Um Ah/She is the sunshine of Virginia: Along the Navajo Trail/ Good, Good, Good: Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Shean/Small Fry: Ciribiribin/Yodellin' Jive: Y'All Come/Changing Partners: Tenderfoot/It had to be you: Back in the old routine/If there's Anybody Here: Start the New Year Right/White Christmas.

MIKE SLIPMAN (address above) may still have the Murray Hill BING CROSBY & FRIENDS 4-LP boxed set.

People who live in MANCHESTER will be aware of ROBINSONS RECORDS, Blackfriars St., Manchester 1 but for those who do not - and those who can easily visit - according to Peter Diffley it is an excellent shop, specialising in records only and is extremely well-stocked.

ROY BISSELL, 128 Vicarage Rd., Wednesbury, West Midlands has rare material for exchange - BING'S HOLLYWOOD, ACE OF HEARTS, BRUNSWICK, WARNER BROS. Send your lists. SAE much appreciated.

Ron Baxter informs us that, regrettably (but understandbly) the price of the Bing ties will have to go up to £1.60, post paid. They are, of course, available - Navy blue with the Bing silhouette "motif" in gold. There are few suits you cannot wear this tie with....and it is still a concessionary bargain. Please note that the address is now changed to:

THE BADGE CENTRE,
45 Ropergate,
PONTEFRACT,
WEST YORKS, WF8 1JY (telephone: 702351)

JUST ONE COPY OF THE PALLADIUM (1977) BROCHURE IS AVAILABLE, THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR RAY TOREY. Offers invited to Reg Bristo please - regret the mercenary approach but we really are wrestling with exorbitant postage expenses.

CROSBY GOING, GOING - AND FOR ONLY TEN GRAND. NEW YORK:

If you collect Crosby records - or wish you had - here's a chance to pick up a little collection that won't cost you more than the price of an eight-room house: 10,000 dollars plus. Better buy the house, too, to go with the records. The collection currently belongs to Bob Wild, New York ad exec who figures now's the time to sell, and who is auctioning off his 3,500 pieces of Crosbyana with 'minimum' bids of 10,000 dollars invited. One such bid has already been received but he's holding out for something around 18-thousand dollars, Wild claims (not "wild claims").

The fabulous collection includes every commercial record, foreign and domestic cut by Der Bingle plus radio broadcasts, government discs, movie soundtracks (on record) and many personal transcriptions. The set-up includes card indexes, statistical records, special cabinets, instant-selection features and one small

(cont.overleaf, p 32.

BING CROSBY

THE STARS of the entertainment world are dropping out of their firmament. The latest, and one of the most lamented, to leave the universal stage is Bing Crosby, who really seemed to have captured the secret of eternal youth. What a wonderful performer the Old Groaner was, and for how many years his singing and acting gave pleasure to millions in every part of the globe.

Was there ever a more popular picture screened in Ireland than Going My Way, in which he starred with our own Barry Fitzgerald? Or a song which touched the heart more deeply than I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas, which probably sold more records than any other in history? He was a remarkably versatile actor in straight and comedy roles. It is sad to think that we shall never now see the new Road film which he had planned to make with his old friend and foil, Bob Hope.

Bing's married life was a long and happy one and an example of permanence possibly unusual in show business. His first and sincerely mourned wife, Dixie Lee, died in 1952; his second marriage, to Kathy Grant, who survives him, had lasted for 20 years, and there were two united families of his two marriages.

If he had been asked to choose his way of dying, he would probably have opted for death on a golf course — preferably after hitting a good drive—without fuss or causing distress to those who loved him.

Theatre lights will be dimmed all over the world in tribute to the man whose death has truly eclipsed the gaiety of nations.

But he was never willing to admit there was anything special about the way he made people weep gentle tears with "White Christmas" or his fervent religious dedication in "The Bells of St. Mary's".

WHAT BING HAD WAS THE GOLDEN KEY to the heart of the common man. Not even gimmicks like the "Road" pictures he made with Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour could destroy that priceless credibility.

'No way of mistaking his voice as he called out my name'

SINGERS are often here today, gone tomorrow, but Bing Crosby — like Old Man River — keeps rolling along, thanks to dedicated admirers like Glasgow Central signalman Peter Monaghan.

When I visited 42-year-old Peter at his home, Crosbyanna, in Barrhead near Glasgow, it wasn't difficult to see he's one of the Old Groaner's most staunch followers. His collection of more than 400 albums, around 150 EPs and singles, numerous private tapes and photographs were scattered around his sitting room while the soothing sounds of the great man's latest album filled the air.

"It all started after I was demobbed from the RAF in 1954," Peter told me. "One of the show-stoppers from the musical play Kismet was Stranger in Paradise, but when I went to get myself a recording of the number I was asked which version I wanted as the song had been recorded by Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra and the Four Aces as well as Bing Crosby. I plumped for Bing and that was the start of my enthusiasm for his records."

Since then, Peter has built up his fine collection of recordings dating back to the '30s right up to the present time. He particularly enjoys another favourite called I've Got the Girl, and reckons he's one of the few to hold a copy as it has been unobtainable for some years.

Peter has met his hero on two occasions — at Turnberry and at Gleneagles — when Bing, wife Kathy and their youngest son were on a golfing holiday.

"I remember our first meeting as though it was yesterday," he recalled.

"I plucked up courage and asked the hotel receptionist if I could have a word with Mr Crosby. After she had checked with him at his suite, she came back to say he was having a shower and would I mind waiting for a few minutes.

"Around ten minutes had passed before I heard Bing's unmistakable voice asking for Mr Monaghan. Next minute we were chatting together like we'd been friends for years. I couldn't believe it.

"We even had photographs taken together. There are no airs and graces with Bing: he was just the way I expected him to be.

"It was an experience I'll never forget."

Peter keeps in touch with loyal Crosby fans all over the world through the International Crosby Circle, a quarterly magazine. He's even had articles of his own published in it.

His favourite all-time song?

"That's a difficult one, there are so many," reflected Peter, "but I think I would go for the original '30s version of Stardust."

He had no such hesitation regarding his favourite albums.

"Number one must be Hey Jude — Hey Bing released in 1969, closely followed by Great Country Hits from three years earlier."

Favourite film?

"That's easy — High Society, with such songs as Samantha, Now you has Jazz, with the legendary Satchmo and True Love with Grace Kelly. That's marvellous."

Peter feared Bing's career might be finished in 1975 when the singer underwent major surgery. He sent him a get-well card.

"A few weeks later a beautiful thank-you card signed personally by Bing arrived at our home," said Peter. "That really knocked me out. What a man!"

HEAVEN

BILL STAVELL'S wish that Bing Crosby has an orchestra "wherever he is now" is not a vain one. Last night, walking in the rain, I distinctly heard him up there singing Pennies from Heaven.—DAI OWEN, *Oakhill Court, Honor Oak Park, Forest Hill.*

Photographs

boy who carefully wipes each record before use. Wild used to live in Hollywood where he occasionally met Crosby and got bitten with the obsession of collecting all frozen samples of the Groaner's groans.

The collector denied he was ultimately aiming for a bid from Crosby, who lost his personal collection some years ago when his house burned down. Wild did say he got an enquiry from Decca that might have originated with Bing. But, he pointed out, after the great fire Decca made special prints of Crosby records from every master on the shelves; and Commodore supplied another 150 items. Plenty of course have not been replaced.

Editor: Naughty of us to include this in TRADING POST - but we couldn't resist it at this particular time! Actually the above appeared in the American music trade paper, DOWN BEAT - on August 12, 1 9 4 6 !

IMPORTANT ADDENDUM: With reference to the advertisement above re. Bob Robert's collection, will you please address enquiries to Mrs. Vera Roberts, 56 Thorold Rd., Chatham, Kent as Mrs. Roberts is now back at home after an American visit.

BOB JONES, 39 Gladstone St., Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, NE31 2XD: I would like to hear from members who have copies of radio shows, soundtracks, &c. of Bing, Jolson, Garland etc. for exchange. Also like to hear from anyone who has pre-1970 LP's of Bing for sale. Large 12p SAE for lists of recordings for sale or exchange.

This particular advertisement leads me naturally (Editor here) to FRED REYNOLDS, 69 Heathmere Avenue, Yardley, Birmingham B25 8RQ for Bob Jones seems tailor-made for Fred who also wants to EXCHANGE such items from an extensive collection. In other words, mutual-exchange of radio shows &c.

BILL HUNTINGTON, 266 Westminster Rd., Morecambe, Lancs: I have a spare copy of CALL ME LUCKY which I will trade for any of the following LP's:- BING'S HOLLYWOOD Nos. 1, 2, 4, 7 and 12 or BING ON THE HAPPY SIDE.

MRS. M. B. DUTTON, 10 Claygate Road, Wimblebury, Cannock, Staffs WANTS 4 and 5 of the musical autobiography set to complete. Originally on Brunswick, of course, LAT 8054 (sides 4 and 7) and LAT 8055 (Sides 5 and 6). Reissued by MCA but not sold singly. Will naturally pay post and packing. I would also like to correspond with ICC members.

BILL TREW, 3 Morris Avenue, Worcester, WR3 7NT: For Sale, Louis Armstrong on Columbia records, V.G.C. CL815 L.A. and his Hot Five; CL708 L.A. and his All Stars play Fats; CL853 L.A. and Earl Hines; CL854 L.A.'s Favourites: These are early recordings on 12" LPs which cost 4 dollars 20 cents in US (£1.50 each here) Set of four LPs are £5.50 including post and packing.

DICK NETTLETON, Brackendale, Ferndale St., Faringdon, Oxon: WANTED - back nos. of BING any pre-1977), "THE GREAT AMERICAN POPULAR SINGERS" and any other reference material. Condition not important provided readable. Quote price incl. postage.

NOEL J. MOULD, 16 Sussex Court, Rathenraw, N. Ireland: C60 tapes available of Bing's original soundtrack songs from 1931 to 1955. Also some 500 songs from Kraft Music Hall, Price £2.00 each plus postage. EXCHANGE: Good copy (hard back) "THE BING CROSBY STORY" by Ted Crosby - WANTED "TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL" LP ALL-STAR PHILCO and CHESTERFIELD LPs (ICC) FOR SALE: 10" LP's BING SINGS STEPHEN FOSTER, VICTOR HERBERT, AND LE BING (Song hits of Paris) All three .N-

JOHN BASSETT, 15 Oast Way, Rochford, Essex: I'd like to obtain a copy of each of the two AMERICAN tribute magazines (priced at 75p each) that appeared in one or two obscure newsagents some weeks back. They've now disappeared but I'd dearly love copies if any member bought spares.

IN CLASSES APART

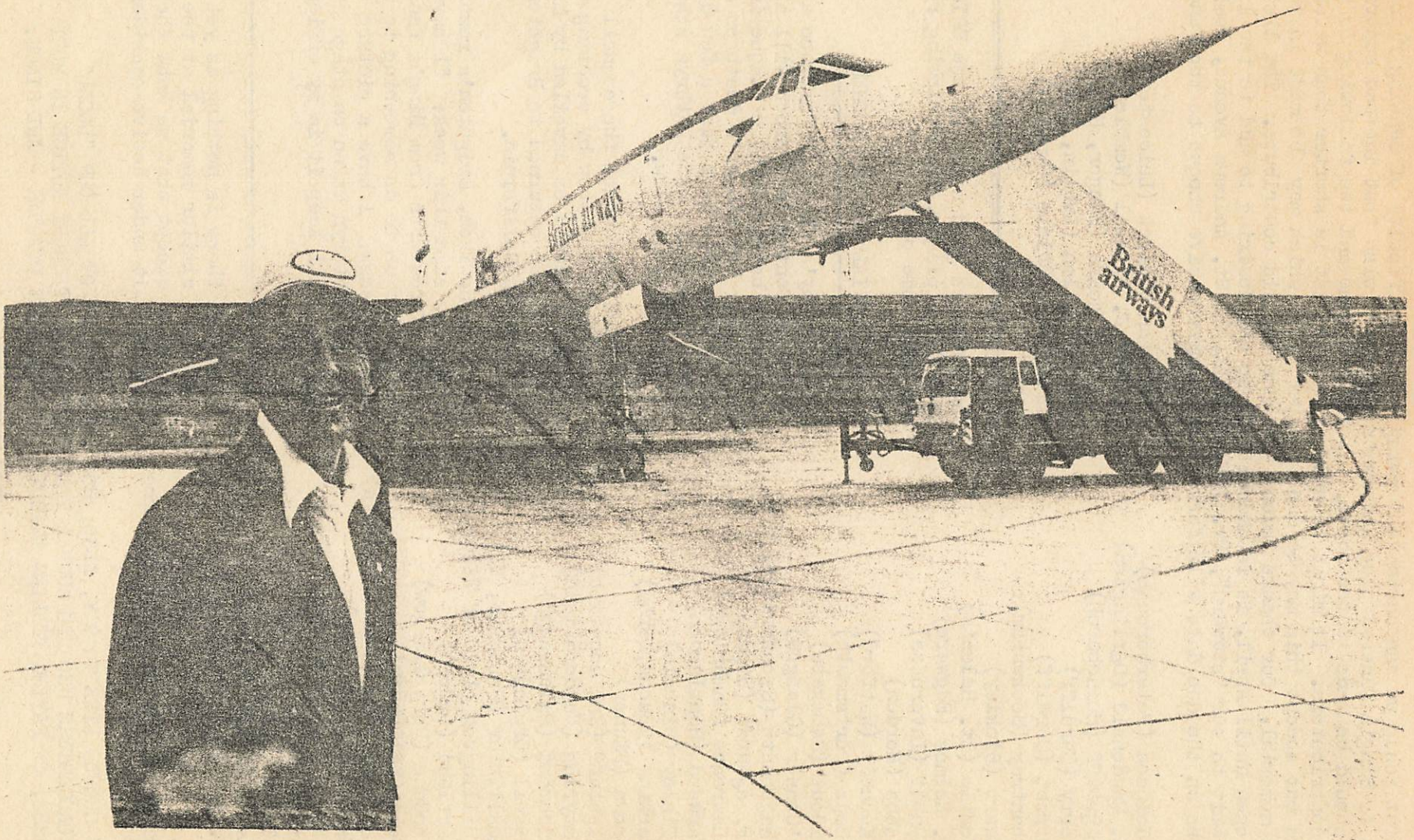

PHOTO BY COURTESY OF BRITISH AIRWAYS.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE APPEAL

In the last issue we announced that owing to the difficulty of sending floral tributes to Bing's funeral plus Kathryn's expressed wish that instead contributions should be made to the above, we invited same and the following is a list of contributors. It might be added that the list is shorter than we anticipated but accept this may be due to other calls which may be made in the way of a memorial. Our thanks indeed to those who did contribute. The list remains open until April, it is understood, so any desiring to add to the list should remit to our "steward", Mr. JOHN BIGNELL, 21 St. Andrews Avenue, Wembley, Midd'x who on the due date will forward one comprehensive cheque to the Fund:

Mrs. M. Joinson (Peterborough)
Mr. K. V. Macdonald (Darlington)
Mr. T. Wagstaff (Hornchurch)
Mr. K. Perry (Cardiff)
Mr. L. Street (Cardiff)
Mr. M. Chantrey (Beckenham)
Mr. W. Ewert (Bickley)
Mr. W. Tootle (St. Helen's)
Mr. A. C. Holmes (Edgware)
Mr. I. Arnott (Inverness)
Mr. S. Hobbs (Morden)
Miss E. Kennedy (Watford)
Mr. H.C.Ross (Portsmouth)
Mr. I. Ridout (Ramsgate)
Mr. T. O'Connor (Glasgow)
Mrs. V. Ragoonath (Stonebridge, M'X)
Mr/Mrs. F. Ashurst (Wigan)
Mrs. S. Lawrence (Cambridge)
Mr. G. Harwood (Huntingdon)
Miss R. Tinley (Lincoln)
Mr. G. Perkins (Loscoe,Derby)
Mr. K. Brown (Pinner)
Mr. T. Wagstaff (2nd donation)
Mrs. J. Styring (Huddersfield)
Mr. K. Richmond (Pulborough)
Mr. I Russell (Orpington)
Mr. F. McAllister (Pasadena, US)
Mrs. M. Billington (Isle of Wight)
Mr. D. Kirtland (Oxford)
Mrs. M. McCune (Port Glasgow)
Mr. K. Cole (Salisbury)
Mrs. R. Strommingers (Haywards Heath)
Mr. T. Harris (Farnborough)
Mrs. S. Walsh (Huddersfield)
Mr. L. Gaylor (Isle of Wight)
Mrs. B. Trowell (Hastings)
Mr. A. Halms (Finsbury Park)
Mr. J. H. Barber (Southampton)
Mr. Stan Willcox (Leicester)
Mr/Mrs J. Bignell (Wembley)
Mr. Gil McKee (Bangor, N.I.)
Mr. D. Tallon (Dublin, Eire)
Mr./Mrs R. Bristo (Cwmbran)

And there is good news re. the BRIGHTON idea for a plaque. The following report has just come out:

A MEMORIAL TO THE CROONER

Bing Crosby's final performance at the Brighton Centre in October will almost certainly be marked by a plaque in the building. The singer's death on a Spanish golf-course came just a few days after he and his wife Kathryn starred in the Brighton show.

Many fans have asked the council to commemorate the show by erecting a plaque. It could be unveiled by Mrs. Crosby if she returned to Brighton from her home in California.

Mr. Tony Hewison, Brighton's resort director, said this week: "I have had a lot of requests from Bing's fans who would like us to do something to mark his last show. I have a picture of Bing and Kathryn taken on stage at the centre, and I keep it in my office".

We regret there is nothing as yet to report re a similar memorial at the London Palladium except that we know the management have it under active consideration.

WE SHOULD LIKE TO SAY, ALSO, HOW PROUD WE ARE OF ALL OUR "LOCAL" BROADCASTERS WHO DID SUCH A TREMENDOUS JOB, AT SHORT NOTICE IN MOST CASES, OF PAYING TELLING TRIBUTES TO BING LAST OCTOBER - AND SINCE.

Lancs rose for evergreen Bing

PAM PURNELL from Hambleton and her sister-in-law Jane said it with flowers — or rather a rose — at the end of Bing Crosby's classic concert at the Guild Hall, Preston, last night.

In the middle of a standing ovation given to Bing and his Friends at the end of their near three hour show, they edged nervously to the front of the stage to hand over their gift.

A single rose represented individual bouquets from every one of the 2,000-strong audience!

The superb Crosby charisma had captivated everyone as the Old Groaner — whoever gave him that name? — put behind him his recent accident and rolled back the years.

For the Crosby family, this was another in a long string of first nights, for the show previewed another performance in Manchester tonight and then a fortnight's season at the London Palladium starting on Monday.

After the show, Bing and his retinue were driven to Manchester where they stayed overnight and even at 11 20 pm a substantial crowd gathered in Lord Street in the hope of catching a final glimpse of the man who overnight had captured the hearts of Preston people.

In the words of a song he once sang with Frank Sinatra . . . "What a swell party this was!"

● Turn to Page Seven for a full report and more pictures of last night's memorable concert.

Newsmakers----

LOS ANGELS TIMES
SEPT. 28, 1977

Crosby Is Music to London Critics' Ears

—An audience of 2,300 and press critics acclaimed **Bing Crosby's** opening show in London. "Bing is in his heyday," the Daily Express reported. The London Evening News: "With his nice and easy life-style, golf swing and vocal chords, there is no reason why the boop-o-doo bathroom baritone should not go on forever." The show also features Crosby's wife, **Kathy**, and their 19-year-old son **Harry**, of whom the Evening News said, "He really ought not to sing in Dad's presence." Crosby, 72, will appear for two weeks at the Palladium. The London show is part of a tour of Britain, where Crosby once entertained U.S. troops during World War II. In addition to the family members, the show includes singer **Rosemary Clooney** and jazz pianist **Joe Bushkin** and his trio.

ANYONE left with dry eyes after Bing's 'Going My Way' on TV last Monday night gets my iceberg of the year award. For Catholics, that is the faith and those are the priests. Sentimental? Of course it is. And without sentiment what have we? Just the granite virtues of professionalism. All Bing has to do when he gets to the Gates of Heaven is show them a re-run of 'Going My Way'. St Peter will give him the keys.

Norman Cresswell.

● Only one Bing

AS A lifelong devotee of Bing Crosby I was shocked and distressed to hear of his sudden death. Bing Crosby was more than just an entertainer—he was an institution.

To those of us brought up in the same era he was an integral part of our lives.

I was fortunate enough to have seen his Palladium show just three weeks ago. He gave a terrific performance and received a standing ovation—something I shall never forget.

Over the years many have tried to copy his style—but none have succeeded. There was only ever one Bing and there will never be another.—**RALPH GIBBONS**, Kingsway Gardens, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh.

IT'S been quite a year for Coun Joe Hood, Mayor of Preston. In June he welcomed the Queen to the town and last night he met the king ... of swing, Bing Crosby. The Mayor handed over a golfing trophy to the Old Groaner to commemorate his Guild Hall concert last night. Pictured from the left are Bing and his wife Kathy, Vin Sumner, entertainments chief, Coun Hood and the Mayoress, Mrs Enid Hood.

BING ON THE BOX

Bing on radio and TV during the past quarter....

Firstly, many have asked why the moving words of Canon Kelly in Westminster Cathedral on the first Sunday after Bing's death - October 16 - weren't quoted in the last issue? Well, we DID say that most of us were at Leeds on the Sunday evening when it was shewn in the TV news and we just didn't know about it! Thanks to members - particularly Roy and Adrienne Dodds of Hasland, and Ray Forster of Liverpool - we received good tapings of what the good Canon said. It was Illtydd Harrington, one-time deputy leader of the GLC who suggested that the service should be held in Bing's memory, with a memorial service later on. The words of Canon Kelly that were televised are shewn inside the front cover of this issue. Our good friend, Olive Gregory of Meols, wrote to the Canon asking if the full text of his sermon was available. But it turned out he spoke entirely off the cuff - a nice tribute in itself - and couldn't tell Olive just what else he said!

Crosby records proliferated, of course, in the various programmes, and a number of odes and poems to Bing's memory were also slotted in but there are three main items of BING ON THE BOX we might concern ourselves with here. Firstly, the BING CROSBY STORY as narrated by Sir Douglas Fairbanks Jnr. is of course being repeated on Radio-2 (BBC) on Wednesday nights at 9.02pm and this will give all a chance to repair the omissions they made when it was originally broadcast in 1973! (Was it really as long ago as that?). Moreover, at least one further instalment, making fifteen, will be added to complete the story. This is one BBC "repeat" that is warmly welcomed and applauded.

So to the Christmas spectacular. Truthfully, it didn't really matter what it was like. Compulsive watching of course - but with that poignant, forlorn, feeling we mentioned in the Editorial. Actually, the truth is that while the show had the germ of a good idea, it didn't really come off. Perhaps the inclusion of those two master character actors, Ron Moody AND Stanley Baxter, was a mistake. Neither looked at ease, or as if they were really getting into the spirit of things.

We learned what Bing and David Bowie have in common. Nothing. Twiggie was much more promising, but didn't have us ecstatic. All that mattered was that Bing was on screen - and was there one of us who did not search for any tell-tale signs of what was to come so soon afterwards? I doubt it. And when we got to the final chorus of WHITE CHRISTMAS, and Bing walked slowly away to the middle-distance to look through a window the poignancy was almost unbearable.

Then there was Bing's Christmas Tuesday broadcast with Alan Dell, Rosie Clooney and the Gordon Rose Orchestra. This was recorded on Tuesday, October 11th - just three days before the trip to Spain.... But if Bing did indeed look as if he were feeling the strains ever since that first mishap at Pasadena when he fell off stage - and he did - he certainly didn't SOUND that way. And certainly not in this recording.

The broadcast was a "put-together" effort in that clearly Bing had chatted with Alan Dell about the songs he was going to see, and this and that, and then the "master" tape for the broadcast was made up afterwards with conversation and music interpolated as required. And it came over well.

The opening to the LIVE AT THE PALLADIUM album was used to usher in the show - a neat idea. But I still don't know whether Alan Dell, in reply to Bing's statement that this was his first musical broadcast for the BBC live - remarked that it was hardly "creditable", meaning it was a reflection on the BBC, or whether he meant it was "hardly credible" - meaning, difficult to believe, of course.

Actually, Bing was wrong. He did programmed shows for the BBC in September - October of 1944 on his first-ever visit to Europe. Many of us have a tape of that historic occasion when he was introduced by the late Franklin Engellman who

(cont. on page 38.

Final curtain on first anti-romantic

"BLOODY OLD Bing Crosby," a school master would say, "John McCormack isn't good enough for ye." My mother was of the same mind: "Look at the years on him," she would mutter while he sang "I'm An Old Cow Hand" in a film called "Rhythm On The Range".

A few months later, there he was in the Picture House again, singing "Pennys From Heaven" and she clicked her tongue and said to whom ever happened to be sitting next to her: "Wouldn't he give you the sick?"

But in 1941 two things happened: Bing sang White Christmas, and Frank Sinatra appeared. "Better the devil you know," my mother said, "than the devil you don't."

QUEUES

We all like Bing. You might never grow up to be a Clarke Gable or an Errol Flynn, but any fool could croon. Or at least this was the impression you are artfully given. I can remember the queues outside the Capitol for Going My Way, which was so long that poor Lennox Robinson thought he was standing in line for the Dalkey tram, and to his amazement found himself sitting in the 2/3d two hours later.

Bing was the first of the anti-romantics. He could bat those shiny eyelids and look so soulfully at Mary Martin or Dorothy Lamour while burbling "Moonlight Becomes You". But you felt that where marriage was concerned he would just as soon go fishing or take Holy Orders.

When he moved, it was from the knees up like a sack of flour hanging from a rope; his face bore the melancholy look suggestive of acute constipation; you felt that it was a toss up as to whether, at the end of the film, he would fall in love or asleep. And yet he knew more about film acting and music than a whole waggon load of Elvises.

When he died on that golf course on Friday (and trust Bing to do it the easy way) it was a greater shock to my generation than Presley's death was to the rock and rollers. You see, we all knew that Elvis would die someday, late or soon; but Bing promised us faithfully that he would go on forever.

No, on second thoughts, its probably all a mistake.

— HUGH LEONARD

A LIGHT MOMENT in the press conference came when a reporter asked the family just how old the singer was. News reports mostly carried his age as 73, although baptismal records indicated he was 74.

Mary Frances laughed at the question and said, "He was just Daddy to us. We didn't ask his age."

Mrs. Crosby said she thought he was 73, although "he acted more like 50."

Asked about the future, Mrs. Crosby said, "I think we'll just take things one day at a time."

Harry said he planned to continue his father's Bing Crosby National Pro-Amateur Golf Championship.

On Monday, 3,000 worshipers filled St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York for a mass in Crosby's memory.

CHOIRBOYS from Sutton and Banstead areas were some of the last people to sing with Bing Crosby before he died playing golf recently.

After a two day session at ATV studios recording a special Christmas show Bing Crosby sent the choir — from Trinity School, Croydon — a message: "Dear Boys. It was a genuine pleasure working and singing with you. You are great!"

Bing on marriage, sex and money

From JERRY WATSON in Hollywood

VETERAN superstar Bing Crosby spoke today of his wealth . . . and his attitude to sex.

Mr. Crosby told television interviewer Barbara Walters that it was wrong for young people to live together out of marriage.

And if one of his young sons came home and said he was living with a girl: "I'd never speak to him again.

"I was raised a Catholic and we believe in marriage," he explained.

He also said he would make his teenage daughter Mary Frances, now 17, leave home if she told him she was having an affair with someone she loved.

Richest

Fred MacMurray, he said, was the richest actor in Hollywood. And reports that he was worth 150 million dollars "were ridiculous".

"After my recent accident I started making out a will and after taxes I figured out I would leave an estate of 1,200,000 dollars.

Of his recent stage fall, Crosby, 73, said he was now "feeling pretty good" but his movement is quite restricted.

"I don't know when and if I'll ever be able to play golf again and that's a bitter blow. I will know in a month if they will have to operate."

The star was very modest about his singing career and confessed: "I don't have any depth or profound philosophy."

His partner in many films, Bob Hope, also came under the television spotlight today.

Mr. Hope and his wife of 43 years, Dolores, chatted about their happy marriage and their friendship with many presidents . . . including Richard Nixon.

Hope said: "He was a friend . . . I can't let him down personally.

Of his reported worth of half-a-billion dollars he said: "I wish it was true. I've got a lot of property and I pay a lot of property taxes. I doubt if I'm richer than Bing."

BING ON THE BOX (Cont.)

proclaimed: "You're glad he's here, I'm glad he's here, and the band's glad he's here...and he IS here...BING CROSBY!" Breaking in on the tumultuous applause Bing went straight into I'LL BE SEEING YOU. But, that was long ago.

Bing remarked, apropos the BBC that "this network has been very good to me... played a lot of my stuff over the years..." Well, there's no denying that! There were times when he seemed the mainstay of certain programmes, particularly Family Favourites and Forces Requests, and BING SINGS slotted in here there and everywhere.

A highlight of the broadcast for me (it would be, I can hear some saying!) was when Bing confessed he mistook Johnny Mercer's singing of SUMMER WIND for that of one Francis Albert!

Bing proceeded to sing some of the numbers he has recorded on recent albums - FEELS GOOD, FEELS RIGHT, NEVERTHELESS, THE ONLY WAY TO GO, THE NIGHT IS YOUNG and so on. Rosemary Clooney was given a very fair share of the programme - more than fair some will say! But she was in good voice, as ever. And after one of her numbers, Alan Dell remarked that Bing still referred to her as "that young upstart". "So how do you refer to Bing," asked Dell. "Let's get back to Father," answered Rosie. Bing no doubt thought of the days when Rosie was groomed and ushered in as a new Paramount star to share billing with Bing.

Much of the correspondence we received consequent on Bing's death referred to the "omens" of many of the songs Bing sang recently, e.g. THE ONLY WAY TO GO, WHEN I LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND, BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES and so on. Certainly a very telling song was chosen for what turned out to be Bing's last professionally recorded song - ONCE IN A WHILE.... "knowing you'll think of me...once in a while.."

The broadcast ended with an announcer remarking with feeling that "this was a real Christmas treat". But, astoundingly, he added "it turned out to be Bing's last professional performance....."

MICHAEL CRAMPTON REPORTS THAT THE DATE FAVOURED FOR THE LEEDS GET-TOGETHER THIS YEAR IS SEPTEMBER 17TH AND UNLESS HE HEARS POWERFULLY TO THE CONTRARY WILL GO AHEAD ON THIS DATE. IT IS A SUNDAY - AND THIS TIME WE HAVE IT RIGHT! In case you disagree (and we hope to avoid fog this year hence the earlier date), Mike's address is: 19 Carrholm Crescent, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 2NL, West Yorks.

Amid all the tribute books priced at anything up to £1.50, there has appeared the block-buster BING CROSBY FILMS BOOK, priced at £10 - which is ample illustration of what we have been saying about telling the Crosby story! Despite this price, it is far from free from errors, alas, and misses some quite important details. Nevertheless, it IS a handsome book.

PETER DIFFLEY even had the publisher's agent travel 40 miles to ensure that he was the first to get this book, actual title THE FILMS OF BING CROSBY. Peter says: "It is a marvellous book with 400 photographs..." Peter generously says that if anyone desiring the book has difficulty obtaining it, they may write to him: 7 Heath Rd., Cale Green, Stockport, Cheshire. But remember, postage may be up to £1 on top of the price of the book. Peter adds that CITADEL, the publishers, often bring out paperback versions about 12 months afterwards - and that could be half the present price.

WHITE CHRISTMAS TRIBUTE TO BING

A TRIBUTE to Bing Crosby was paid last night by a woman who sang his most famous song at St. Saviour's Church, Leicester.

She was Mrs. June Tait, wife of the secretary of Leicester Age Concern, Mr. Ernie Tait, who sang I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas.

Mrs. Tait had accompanied her husband to a service which celebrated the third birthday of the St. Saviour's branch of Age Concern as part of the church's centenary celebrations.

Mr. Tait said: "Our St. Saviour's centre has flourished. We are trying to rekindle community spirit and encourage people to think about their neighbours."

Musical items were provided by the Leicester Male Voice Choir conducted by Mr. Philip Jenkins.

Bing Crosby in a class of his own

HAVING just watched the Britannia Awards presentations on television, I can honestly say that none of the stars came up to the standard of the late Bing Crosby.

For voice, personality and the way he put over a song he was unmatched.

For 50 years he delighted and entertained millions and what a lovely person he was, too — a good family man and friend, giving of himself and his money to worthwhile charities.

Not for him were the drugs, drink and sex that so many need to keep going now. I have never heard any scandal connected with Bing.

He is mourned by millions and will be missed greatly. Something has gone from our lives by his passing. I say God bless Bing for all the years of happiness he gave us—and condolences to his grieving family.

Mrs. JOAN WYATT,
92 Stephenson Drive,
Leicester.

Relaxed in the Gresham minus the hairpiece

By TONY WILSON

HE WAS sitting in the lounge of his suite at the Gresham Hotel, on a sofa, with a small table pulled up in front of him. He drank tea from a pint glass mug and was eating fruit cake.

Bing Crosby, one of the world's true superstars, was eating a light tea prior to his concert appearance at the Gaiety a year ago.

He sat, without his toupee, which he always took off when not in the immediate public eye, and talked to a small group of journalists who had finally managed to get to see him.

The long wait—nearly two hours—wasn't any of Bing's doing. The fact that we had been waiting to see him wasn't made known to him by the London promoter Robert Patterson who had brought Bing to Dublin for his charity shows.

It was through his wife Katheryn Grant, that we got to see him eventually.

He asked us to sit and when a couple of us started to light cigarettes, he asked us not to, because his wife was allergic to any form of tobacco smoke and had even been known to faint if the traces were too strong.

Indeed, one of Bing's familiar trademarks, his pipe, was missing. Partly because of his wife's aversion and because he had been ordered to stop smoking following the removal of a large growth from one of his lungs.

ARTANE BOYS

Our time with Bing wasn't long and we all had different questions to ask him, ranging from his interest in the Artane Boys Band, one of the beneficiaries of his charity show that night, to Irish music to his conservation interests.

It was a side of the multi-millionaire's interests that had probably received the least publicity. But Bing was a very interested conservationist, with special interest in salmon and wildfowl and talked about his involvement with some of America's proliferating groups dedicated to saving species of wildlife.

All too soon the meeting was over and we were ushered out of the room.

A last impression was left of a quiet, courteous and patient man, looking younger than his 70-odd years, who confirmed the old saying: "The bigger they are, the nicer they are."

Later that night, he proved what a master of the art of entertainment he was with a three-hour show with his family, Rosemary Clooney and comedian Ted Rodgers.

For most of that time, Bing was on stage, dueting with Rosemary Clooney, clowning with Rodgers, and introducing his family — Katheryn Grant, Mary Frances, Harry and Nathaniel — in a spot that mixed song and dance, but the high spot of the evening was the medley Bing Crosby sang of over 40 songs, just a fraction of the many he recorded and sang during his long and highly successful career.

His death closes another chapter of show business history but his memory will live on with those who have seen him, those who have his records, through his films and especially with those, like me, who were privileged to meet him, however briefly.

KOBAL CORNER

WITH BERT BISHOP

These are the pages wherein Bert endeavours to cover all new records issued of Bing in his own individual style. As with all reviewers, it is incumbent on no-one to agree with everything Bert says about a record. But he does present them objectively - and stimulates thought about them. Which is good. Another point is - and this tends to puzzle some members - some of the records are NOT easily obtained in this country. And if they are, they can be obtained only at first-class record shops, especially those with import facilities. As a guide, where the address of a company is given, i.e. Sunbeam, Totem, Spokane and so on, these may, in fact, only be obtainable from America. Such albums are included for the sake of completeness.

In the case of Decca, RCA, MCA and the other more familiar labels it can be taken that the records are fairly easily obtained here - tho' not necessarily at Boots, or Woolworths. Even so, as was the case with the recent Japanese issues, they are on well-known labels but are still special "imports" and for that reason difficult to find.

One other point regarding records before Bert embarks on this quarter's output: we are sorry - and extremely annoyed - about the fiasco (the only word!) concerning the Biograph album of the Mack Sennett "short" songs. As many of you will long have known, the company that so graciously offered us the records at a handsome discount, did so BEFORE they had actually concluded the agreement with the importing company! Such an action is entirely reprehensible and we lost no time in telling them so. But, that doesn't get the albums, alas. We are in touch with Harlequin as an alternative supplier and any news will be included elsewhere in this issue. Harlequin in the past have declined mail-order business but we hope they will relent in this particular case. Some members have already obtained the album from Harlequin and report that it is all we expected it to be. And now to Bert Bishop - - - - -

As predicted, there has been quite a flush of reissued material since they columns were last compiled; it includes the two most popular albums from the 'Sixties, the usual rash of "pirated" tracks, and some really worthwhile songs of the early years direct from the archives of CBS.

But before looking over the golden oldies and the firmly affixed favourites there are still three more Bing recordings from 1977 on release, and yet to be reviewed. These may close the book on Bing so far as recordings made for commercial sale are concerned but there is every possibility that there will be further recordings officially released - perhaps the BBC last tapings and almost certainly songs recorded for the radio networks throughout Bing's career.

JOE BUSHKIN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF RECORDED SOUND.
United Artists UAG 30142 UK £3.75
TCK 30142 (cassette)

Side 1: Track 1 - Now you has Jazz.
Side 2: Track 6 - Sail Away from Norway.

Bing's greatest jazz number, perhaps - certainly the most popular, turns up in a new guise on an album that seems almost as much dedicated to Bing as it does to the theme implied by the title. In point of fact, the title seems to be more of a witty window-dressing by the waggish Joey Bushkin than a reflection of the album content, much of the proceeds of which go to the Norwegian Red Cross.

This record seems to be in most of the shops and members should have no difficulty in obtaining it - provided they will want to on the strength of two abbreviated Bing vocals! Ostensibly the collection was recorded at Bing's Oslo Concert last year (attended by some of our Norwegian members in the open-air - and pouring rain!), but the sleeve notes that Bing's contributions were re-recorded in London on the 4th October 1977, though continuity has been maintained by Bing's spoken introductions and the audience response.

> The opening track is more or less a reminder of how Bing was singing this infectious Cole Porter number on stages throughout Britain and America this past couple of years. In introducing the Bushkin Quartet and, originally, singing in the rain for the Nomarkedet Fair, Bing employs the same musical drama in a truncated form; but it lacks the slow-fuze excitement so inherent in the famous HIGH SOCIETY scene with the immortal Louis Armstrong. Hardly Bing's fault, of course, for the nature of the programme dictated the duration. And in any case, as there was only one Bing, so too there was only one Satchmo

For the final track of the album Bing sings a little song as a farewell to his Scandinavian hosts. Set to the full orchestra of Jack Parnell, the tune is a traditional air with words by Bing himself. Nothing outstanding, just a very friendly gesture, and a nice reminder of Bing's many talents and his desire to meet as many of his world-wide admirers as the sands of time would allow.

Bing is seen, or mentioned, on three of the four faces to the folding sleeve. Indeed, there is small write-up by him, noting that so far as label credits are concerned "I'm right back where I started: Vocal Refrain by Bing Crosby" followed by his signature. However, as a guest singer on this album he doesn't lack publicity. Even a large print of a sketch by Berhl Oreging this is given away with the album twice features a drawing of the famous Bing caricature. Titled "Joe Bushkin on tour with Bing" the sketch would seem to surrealistically show Bing driving a golf buggy towards the 9th hole on an exotic green, with all the Quartet's musical paraphernalia in tow. An interesting and unusual item of Crosbyana to be sure - that turned up so unexpectedly.

A TRIBUTE TO DUKE:
US Concord Jazz: Concord Jazz Inc., PO Box 845, Concord CA 94522 CJ-50)

Side 1: Track 2 -

Don't Get Around Much Anymore.

No recording date to hand for this 1977 album, dedicated by benefit to the Duke Ellington Cancer Centre but presumably Bing made his contribution before he left for Britain last summer. And it seems to have been aired by the BBC quite a few times.

Backed by a five-piece jazz group (which includes Jake Hanna on drums from the Bushkin outfit) Bing turns in a very spirited performance of the popular 1942 song. Though a jazz accompaniment, the arrangement is traditional in style and presentation, and Bing sounds really in his element with a strong and vigorous vocal. But for the existence of the ICC and its far-reaching lines of communication, this important and very likeable track could easily have been overlooked by Crosby fans though it has been seen on the Import shelves of UK record shops. This album, be it noted, is in the category of "not easy to get". But as Bing had never recorded this song before it should be worth acquiring - and those with US contacts will not be slow off the mark.

BING CROSBY VOL 1 1928-1932
CBS 31618 UK Mono £2.29.

This album, of course, will be freely available. and is the first of a couple of albums from CBS Records that many of us have been waiting for for a long, long time. Officially, and not taking into account any pirate labels, all the 14 tracks contained in this beautiful collection are sides never before released on LP. At the time of writing the actual record is not in my possession so I can only work from the label copy, which is mainly concerned with titles and composer/publisher credits - no

mention of sleeve graphics or pictures, of course.

Bearing in mind that those of us who are lucky enough to possess 78s of these songs have in our collections fragile recordings of up to fifty years old, it is no wonder that the first-time release of a whole batch of recordings from this great Crosby era is an event viewed with considerable relish.

> There actually are some members who are "early Thirties" Bing only; and I'm bound to say that I have more than a penchant for that era myself. At the time they were originally issued these Crosby vocals didn't become hits in the sense that they were in Bing's films, or that they were greatly popular in themselves in themselves. So much high quality material was being composed and recorded in that golden era that, inevitably, there was a lot of very good material that by sheer weight of numbers just had to be left by the wayside. This is that material. To Crosby buffs and 'Thirties afficionados in general the songs will be well-known or remembered, but there will be many to whom some of these fine vocals will come quite fresh. Pure gold from an era when Bing's impact on the popular music scene was as fresh, outstanding and as tasteful as anything before or since!

Our thanks are due to Mr. Peter Robinson at CBS, the producer, with the hope that the likely Volume 2 will not be too long in forthcoming.

THOSE BOMBASTIC BLOND BOMBSHELLS
Wallysprite Records BGMM 42 US £5 approx.

Side by Side: There's a Small Hotel
Something to Remember you by: Easter Parade.

All four Bing tracks on this album are duets, probably with Marilyn Maxwell, taken from radio broadcasts in the 'Forties. Songs by these titles appear in Bing's KRAFT MUSIC HALL for that period, and these may well be they. From a sales point of view alone it is incredible that Bing is not mentioned anywhere on the LP or the sleeve! Maybe the producers were a little scared of likely consequences of copyright infringement, but it seems a half-hearted attitutde... especially as they are four very good duets in good fidelity. And this is one of those "specialist" albums available only from really exceptional shops, or direct import. And expensive.

CHRISTMAS TOAST 20th Century BT551 UK

This album is a direct equivalent of A TIME TO BE JOLLY 2932 001 featuring ten tracks of what, in 1970, were brand-new Christmas songs written especially for Bing.

See THE BING CROSBY LP-OGRAPHY FOR FULL DETAILS. Seems it was rushed out in view of the tragedy of October 14 for the Christmas market.

BING CROSBY SINGS THE GREAT COUNTRY HITS
Capitol SM 11737 UK £2.50p.

Again, reference to the LP-OGRAPHY will reveal the contents and the fact that this is a second reissue of the original Capitol T 2346.

THAT TRAVELLIN' TWO-BEAT
Capitol SM 11736 UK £2.50p

Bing and Rosie hit their many Roads again in a further release of this very popular collection which was a very happy follow-up to FANCY MEETING YOU HERE. Again refer to LP-OGRAPHY for titles.

BING CROSBY - LOUIS ARMSTRONG
Capitol SM-11735 UK £2.50p

Undqubtedly one of the most popular collections ever released on LP comes up yet again in this new and slightly

varied album. The best feature of it is in the inclusion of LAZY RIVER, a track which, previously, was only available on a charity LP. A brand-new sleeve illustrating our two immortals in typical pose packages this third Capitol LP in the reissue stakes - and needless to say, these Capitol albums are readily obtainable from non-specialist shops even though you may have to order by cat. number.

BING CROSBY - GOLDEN MEMORIES CBS Special Products
6-LP Boxed set, 3-cassette set, Stereo: 8-track set.
LP set 19.98 dollars; cassettes/8-track 21.90 dollars.
Available from: Vanowen Industries, Dept. BC1,
10635 Vanowen Street, Burbank,
CA. 91505, USA.

I'll Get By/Let's Do It/Without a Song/After You've Gone/You Brought A New Kind of love to me/S'posing/If I Had You/Sweet Sue/Dinah/Once in a Blue Moon/Brother, Can you spare a dime?/How Deep is the Ocean?/Did You Ever see a dream Walking?/I've Got the world on a string/Some of these days/A Bundle of old love letters/T'Ain't So Honney, T'Ain't so/Susianna/The Spell of the blues/My Kinda Love/Till we meet/I Kiss your hand, madame/Baby, Oh Where can you be?/Can't We be friend?/Can't we be friend?/Gay Love/If I had a talking picture of you/Livin' in the Sunlight/St. Louis Blues/How Long will it last?/My Woman/Paradise/Sweet Georgia Brown/Please/Here lies love/Learn to Croon/Moonstruck/Down the Old Ox road/Thanks/The Day you came along/Black Moonlight/Just an echo/Beautiful girl/We'll Make Hay while the sun shines/Temptation/Love Thy Neighbour/Goodnight, Lovely little lady/May I?/She Reminds me of you/I'm Hummin', I'M Whistlin', I'm Singin'/Love in Bloom/Straight from the shoulder/A ghost of a chance/My Honey's Lovin' Arms/The Last round-up/Shine/Lets put out the lights/Blue Prelude/Ridin' around in the rain/I've got to pass your house.

"Sixty Golden Songs" states the advertising feature for this huge slice of vintage Crosby. It represents an expanded amalgamation of BING CROSBY - THE EARLY JAZZ YEARS and much of BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD 1930-34, plus some notable extra songs that were big hits for Bing. Some of our newer members will like to pursue this collection, I'm sure, and it is advised that though the stated price is inclusive of packaging and mailing, the advertisement applies to the USA. Therefore, you would be advised to ascertain any extra costs for overseas mailing before sending monies.

BING VOL 1 Sumbeam 502 US

Young and Healthy/Rose of Mandalay/Starlite/High Water/I guess it had to be that way/I'm Hummin', I'm Whistlin', Singin'/Lets put out the lights/Cabin in the Pines/Let's try again/I'll follow you/I've got to pass your house/Lazy Day/Southern Medley/Someday we'll meet again.

BING VOL 2 Sunbeam 504 US

Linger a little long/Face the music medley/My Pet/I'm in love again/Let's spend an evening at home/Muddy Water/Little Dutch Mill/Riding around in the rain/Sunshine/Street of Dreams/Lawd, you made the night too long/You're still in my heart/I'm Playing with fire/Love, you funny thing.

Two more "pirate" LPs from the United States put together another immense slice of the formative years of Bing. Could it be that these tracks are now out of copyright in the States? It seems a remarkable thing if these albums can be imported on any other basis than a firm legal footing. What the sound transference is like I cannot say at this time, but in view of the relative cheapness of the official CBS issues now coming out, and the likelihood of their being of quite high fidelity, it may be that these Sunbeams are a pricey extravagance. And, again, they are available at only specialist record shops in London, possibly Manchester and Liverpool and perhaps some other big towns. They are NOT a Woolworths, Boots, W.H.Smith speciality!

BING CROSBY SINGS SONGS BY GEORGE GERSHWIN. MCA-3162 Japan Mono £5.60

Swanee
Embraceable You
They can't take that away from me.
Summertime
It Ain't necessarily so.
I got plenty of nuttin'
Somebody Loves me
Love walked in
But not for me -?
Maybe
Mine (with Judy Garland)
Liza

BING CROSBY - GOLDEN DISC MCA Records VIM-10015 (Map/S6794) Stereo Japan £6.95

Night and Day
Swinging on a Star
Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral
Autumn Leaves
I Kiss your hand, Madame
Sweet Leilani
Now is the hour
You are my sunshine
Home on the range
Danny Boy
Begin the beguine
Alla en el rancho grande
You belong to my heart
White Christmas

THE GREATEST HITS OF BING CROSBY MCA Records MCA-7017 Stereo Japan £5.99

Night and Day
Swinging on a Star
Begin the beguine
Quizas, quizas, quizas
Home on the range
You are my sunshine
Dear hearts and gentle people
Autumn leaves
La vie en rose
Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral
I kiss your hand, madame
Blue Hawaii
Sweet Leilani
Now is the hour.

All these three LPs, plus the 3-LP GREAT ENTERTAINER SERIES (previously listed in "BING"), have been available in different parts of the UK, notably the Harlequin Record shops. Its a case of badgering or pleading with the shop managers in some instances, but the Gershwin LP does represent something of a collector's item, being a four song improvement on the original 10" LP. The 'take' of BUT NOT FOR ME is not known, but it is clearly different from the 78 version.

DER BINGLE VOL 2 Spokane 10 Spokane Records, PO Box 724, Remond, WA 98052, USA

Riding herd on a cloud tonight
Get on the road to victory
What do you do in the infantry?
Sunday, Monday, or always
The vic'try polka
Its all over now
As time goes by
I'll be seeing you
Shoo shoo baby
There'll be a hot time in the town of Berlin
Song of the Bombadiers
Long ago and far away
Bless 'em all
I'll get by
Is you is or is you ain't my baby?
Saturday night.

KRAFT MUSIC HALL: BING CROSBY Spokane 11 (address above)

Kraft Music Hall broadcast of 29 January 1942, Part 2,

BING IN THE THIRTIES Spokane 12 (address above)

Titles next page....

Someone else may be there while I'm gone
At long last love
I'm just wild about Harry
Have you forgotten?
I'm building a sailboat of dreams
That sly old gentleman
Ciribiribin
After all

Woodbury Programme c. 1935

Blame it on my youth
Easy to remember
Old Faithful
Lullaby of Broadway

Three further LPs from Larry Kiner's record company, at the address given above and all feature non-commercial recordings taken from radio broadcasts. As usual, the content is very good and the sound as good as one might expect from such a source. The graphics are always excellent - Vol 10 featuring a very good drawing of Bing in battle headgear by ICC member Joe Sinnott of New York state. It is understood The Swing Shop and other specialist importers stock these albums - or, more expensively possibly, they can be obtained direct from Larry Kiner - but remember the expense of air-mail delivery or the inordinate time it takes to receive records by the more economic surface mail.

JUDY GARLAND IN HOLLAND VOL. 3
Obligato GIH6100 Stereo

Limehouse Blues: April in Paris: Isle of Capri: Any Town is Paris: How could you believe me when I said I loved you?

Duets with Judy from Chesterfield shows of 1951 back up the title content of this pirated material LP. The Vol 3 of the title is an inaccurate statement.

THE ANDREWS SISTERS "LIVE"
Andros Records ANDS 4566

One Meat Ball: South America, Take it away: You don't have to know the language: May the good Lord bless you and keep you; Don't fence me in.

More "pirated" material, with source not known for every Bing track. For Andrews Sisters fans its not a bad package of songs - 29 of them!

TWO FAVOURITE STORIES BY BING CROSBY: MCA 15017 US

The Small One and Adeste Fidelis
The Happy Prince, and The Sweetest story ever told.

Re-issue of Decca DL 74283 and LAT 8550; an album which has not been around for some time and which is usefully on the market again.

THE VERY BEST OF THE MARX BROTHERS:
AAT 201/2 2-LP set (AAT label; American Album & Tape Corporation, 870 7th Ave. NY10019

Sketch: Attorney at Law, features GO WEST, YOUNG MAN (Philco 12 Feb '47)
Sketch: Groucho in Chicago: Features FEUDIN' AND FIGHTIN' (Philco 30 Apr '47
Sketch: A conversation with Harpo and features MY BLUE HEAVEN (c. 1944)

The last item on this LP has Bing singing to the rare accompaniment of a harp. In this instance, of course, played by the late Harpo Marx.

ROBERTA - THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION
Amalgamated Robt.30 US

The Thing (with Fred Astaire) Never Been Kissed (with Fred Astaire & Chorus)
Sketch: featuring How Do you Do, Viola Barnes, How do you do?
Sketch: Parody Nobody's Sweetheart (Bing solo with Buddy Cole at the piano)

BING CROSBY'S GREATEST HITS
MCA 3031 US

Whife Christmas
Whiffenpoof Song
I Surrender, Dear
Blue Skies
Pistol Packin' Mama
Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral
Ac-cent-chu-ate the positive.
Don't Fence me in
You are my sunshine
Swinging on a Star
Deep in the Heart of Texas
Where the Blue of the Night (1945)

CUT - VOLUME TWO Out Take Records Inc.
OTF-2 "Out takes From Hollywood's Greatest Musicals"

The house Jack 't for Jill - RHYTHM ON THE RANGE 1936

A nice duet by Bing and Frances Farmer that was, as the label of this LP suggests, cut from the film and never used.

THE BEST OF BROADWAY & HOLLYWOOD
RCA PJM 1-8101 Germany

"The Giants - Fred Astaire - Bing Crosby - Frank Sinatra"

Mack the Knife Ol' Man River (1928) Make Believe (1928)

RCA HEIRLOOM COLLECTION - 50 YEARS OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE MUSIC
PRM 287-1/6 6-LP set US

Ol' Man River (1928) PRM 287-2
On a slow boat to China PRM 287-5

"So Long, Bing" EMI 2727 UK Single

Sung by J.J.Barrie this 'tribute song' treads a fairly tasteful path between maudlin sentimentality and outright commercialism, though one cannot deny the fact that the producers have cashed in on Bing's death...but then, so are all the record producers. This includes MCA, from whom there is the good news that they expect to issue one multi-track LP every month, and it is likely to feature at least three of its 20 tracks on songs never issued on LP before. This news comes from our Bristol stalwart, Colin Pugh, who has been researching Bing's MCA-owned records for this very project. Colin reckons there are about 200 songs by Bing that have only been released so far on 78. Well, we're in 1978 so may be this is a very good year for the old waxings...everything points that way.

Editor: Well, as Bert said, quite a flush - we've turned full circle! From the schooldays when we used to try and puzzle out how to get 2/6d for a Brunswick around 1932 until now - and we have the same problem as to obtaining all that's listed here. But, few will do so. Look for the country of origin in the headings as to how available they are. One I shall get with trembling delight is going to be one of the easiest - the CBS 31618 1928-1932! Unaccountably, looking back I see the titles are not listed and now I've lost Bert's copy!

But, like Bert, I have "more than a penchant" for that era; Bing was always, is always, tangibly, uniquely Bing for me, but those early years were so unbelievable, with, as Bert also says, high quality material from that golden era of song-writing.

I found the record by J.J. Barrie extremely pleasant with a fine melody and I'm surprised it hasn't - so far - enjoyed better success. The artist is a complete mystery to me, but I learn he is a Canadian who came here "as the music-hall was fading away in the 50's". He was part of a double-act, specialising in mime. Subsequently he turned to record producing and has had a couple of successful LP's. Seems he is still resident in this country.

THE GREAT COUNTRY HITS and THAT TRAVELLIN' TWO-BEAT will be extremely welcome, too, to a large number of members. For me, the second-named is easily the best of the Bing-Rosie duet albums. The lyrics must be listened to, however, for the repartee - and riposte - are remarkable. Not to mention the singing!

LETTERS

Ever since October 14, 1977 there has been a veritable avalanche of mail, offering a most daunting prospect as regards selection for these pages.... but wherever we picked, the letters are worth reading - and we know letters are a popular feature of BING ----------

Remember, letters on discographical matters, publications, films have separate addresses! These are letter To The Editor!

REG BRISTO,
7 Greenmeadow Close,
CWMBRAN,
GWENT NP4 3NR.

Granville Allen, 97 Mill Rd., Newthorpe, Nottingham NG16 3QE:

would like to express my thanks for another enjoyable meeting and dinner at eeds altho', naturally, it was clouded by the recent event. Quite a number of eople have told me they saw us on television. I am enclosing a letter I've eceived from a Mrs. O'Shea, a former neighbour of ours as I feel it of interest:

> Dear Granville: I have been thinking about you ever since I read the news of Bing's death and know that you must be feeling sad. It is rather a coincidence but Fr. Duggan is away and whilst he has been on holiday we have had two Franciscan priests here from Gorton, Manchester. The one we had this week said during Mass on Sunday: 'I have never done anything like this in all my priestly life, but I am asking you to pray for the soul of Bing Crosby - not because he was a great entertainer but because he was a great benefactor of our Order, and this he has never wished to be publicized during his lifetime. I don't know what his benefactions would amount to but I know that in this country and in California it must run into hundreds of thousands of pounds....'
>
> In the evening he again spoke about Bing and said that he had never met him but a close friend of his had. He said that he didn't flaunt his Catholicism but it was always there. Much of the money that he had given to charities would continue, even after his death.
>
> He spoke of the work of Fr. Juniper Serra who is famous in America as the founder of several Missions. He was born in Majorca and had a crippled back. He went to work in America during the 18th century and founded Missions in California whose names we take for granted, like for instance, San Francisco (St. Francis), Los Angeles (Holy Angels), Santa Juan de Capistrano (St. John of Capistran). Bing Crosby kept all these ancient missions going.

Everybody admires Bing for that fact that he was not only successful but he was such a humble character, and kind, and led a goof life where so many let a bit of fame and money go to their head!

Editor: We had heard whispers, of course, of Bing's benefactions but this is certainly a tribute worth memtioning and we're glad Granville sent it to us. We're glad too that Betty and Gerald Perkins enjoyed their first visit to Leeds! (Friends of Granville)

That ought to teach me to complain to record companies! You remember I took RCA to task, suggesting that their LEGENDARY PERFORMER album was overprice at £3.69 seeing that such a large part of it had not only been reissued several times but was actually in the shops currently! You will recall their reply to the effect that they didn't consider it too expensive, not at all, considering what was in it. There has now been a much more cogent reply - for in the shops now it has gone up - to £3.99p! And in some cases, a new label has been stuck over the old one!

Letters continued.....

L. Pairpoint, 86 Ellesmere Ave. Mill Hill, London, NW7 3HD: I feel desperately sorry for Decca who have always tried to do well by collectors but now have, relatively, so few masters to shuffle; but MCA are another disc on the turntable, as it were. Since BING & CO was first projected, I anticipated the horror of a re-hash of the World Records "gift" issue 'Bing and Friends', and altho' this was not the case, I still felt cheated when it finally materialised. So much so that I tried a comparative analysis with previous micro-groove issues in my own collection with the following findings. Out of the 20 tracks, 6 are also currently available on higher priced box-sets (World Records, Musical Autobiog aphy etc). The long-gone but still sought after BING'S HOLLYWOOD accounts for another 4 tracks and out of the remaining 10 tracks, 5 appear on 10" LPs or Ace of Hearts and five not at all - although Japanese MCA issues have since duplicated two of these. An album with this title must surely include Jolson, Hope, Garland and Armstrong and there aren't too many commercial recordings to juggle with there. So, in the end, after my initial disappointment, I wound up forgiving them for not releasing 20 items that I hadn't got. Now, here endeth this monument to mis-punctuation and the split infinitive....

Editor: Hmmm..it does seem odd, and unfair, that Decca are now so restricted in their Crosby repertoire - especially on our old friend Geoff. Milne who has enriched so many collections with his efforts. The Ace of Hearts series in particular was a sterling effort that Geoff pursued diligently. On the other hand, I've just heard from a little bird that a well-known musical director who - from what I've heard of him - is going far has recently changed labels because "Decca do little or no promotion - they are satisfied, or appear to be, with sales of 10 to 20,000 on a Crosby album while United Artists go after - and get - 90 to 100 thousand". I doubt if promotion is Geoff Milne's particular pigeon - but I think there is something in that statement re sales.

As regards duplication of titles, well that's something we've had to live with for years and years - ever since the LP was innvoted, in fact. Look at the MR. CROSBY AND MR. MERCER album! Perhaps someone who has more time that your Editor (!) would work out just which titles have been most duplicated throughout the whole spectrum of reissues. I know when I was preparing the LPography for printing I formed the impression that a likely - if surprising - contender would be TOO-RA-LOO-RALOO-RAL.

Mike O'Donoghue, 2 Worcester Gardens, Crankbrook, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3NW:
All my copies of BING were left at the Palladium to be autographed by Bing after I saw the show. I have now learned that all the material that was to have been signed by Bing was sent to America and would have been posted back when he had dealt with it. This means I will not now be receiving the famous signature. I should have made the effort on his earlier trip to England. I am sure I felt the same as all Crosby fans when the news-flash was announced. I suppose I must have thought Bing was immortal, so much of my youth was spent listening to him and seeing his films. I thought he would always be there...singing. However, as Bert Bishop said to me last night: "Bing will never die - he's just stopped recording."

Bing was given many tributes on that night on London Broadcasting. They asked for anyone having PLEASE (would you believe?) to let them have it as they did not have the song. One Bing fan drove 36 miles with the LP to the studio. They played the track and interviewed the gallant soul.

I saw the funeral on TV and was deeply moved - as I was on the Sunday I was at Westminster Cathedral when Mass was said for Bing. I am sure more people miss him than is realised. Thank God for all he left us....

Editor: Many people were sadly "caught out" by leaving magazines, records, and brochures to be autographed by Bing. Well, there it is...tragedy strikes. But I have heard of people who have managed to retrieve them from the Palladium, at least, and I have no doubt that sooner or later the Crosby office will get

get around to returning the material - unautographed, of course. I loved the thought of "the gallant soul" with the record of PLEASE! Was it one of us, I wonder?

Arthur C. Holmes, 33 Grange Hill, Edgware, Midd'x, HA8 9PG: Like millions of others, no doubt, I sat in my chair completely stunned for fully a quarter of an hour before I realised it must be true. Bing has been a part of my life - and a major part for almost 40 years and I just could not visualise life without hearing the latest news of Bing - where he was, what he was doing, his recordings, films, performances of all kinds and everything that made the maestro the only real superstar, and the friend notwithstanding of all of us.

All our family loved him, and he was one of the family, and always spoken of just as one of the family would be. He was, and naturally still is, the subject of much of the conversation in our house. But, as BING readily pointed out in the last issue (much appreciated) we have much to be grateful for - Bing was still unquestionably right at the top where he belonged; and he died knowing that he had just completed an arduous tour and given thousands of his admirers such entertainment as they are never likely to see again.

And we have our memories - such wonderful memories. I can remember the events of a particular day because I bought a Crosby record or saw one of his films on that day. I was in the Services when Bing visited London during the War and I recall the barrack-room being crowded - overcrowded - with the whole camp anxious to hear Bing's BBC Broadcast, and there was complete silence while the programme was on. You could have heard a pin drop - and yet if one had, I am sure the dropper would have suffered when the broadcast was over!

I remember, too, that soon after I was called up during the War I was stationed at a Butlin's Holiday Camp near Ayr (taken over as a Naval Telgraphist Training Centre) and we were billetted in rows of chalets - though it didn't seem much of a holiday! In one of our chalets, a chap owned a radio and he would shout along the row when a Bing record was due to be played (and it will be recalled, they often were!) and there would be a mad rush of trainee sailors to that particular chalet. We had a cinema at another camp where I was stationed, and when a Crosby film was showing there was always standing-room only. I recall one occasion when MOROCCO was the feature film, or intended to be for there was an announcement from the stage that, unfortunately, MOROCCO couldn't be shewn. And this was greeted with prolonged booing - which changed to cheers when it was announced that PARIS HONEYMOON would be shewn instead. Everybody was happy again - the film didn't really matter provided it was a Bing film. And as a matter of fact, that film - like most of them - had some very catchy songs, I recall. Memories are certainly made of Bing... And, do you know, it was as though Bing was given back his old voice for the last two or three years, or very nearly so, so that he ended on that brilliant note.

There is one thing that is sure and certain: Bing will always be with us, and, at this time I am irresistibly reminded of Sir Winston Churchill's oft-quoted and famous declaration of 1940; with suitable amendments - "Never in the field of entertainment has so much been owed by so many to one man..."

Editor: A nice letter indeed - and we love Arthur's adaptation of Churchill's immortal tribute.

Margaret B. Dutton, 10 Claygate Rd., Wimblebury, Cannock, Staffs: I began a letter to you at the end of September and had not had time to finish it when the dreadful news of October 14 came...and I knew then I wouldn't finish it. But I don't need to dwell on that awful night in October when so suddenly, so out of the blue, came that TV newsflash "BING CROSBY IS DEAD...." The shock was so great it has taken me these weeks to get over it. In fact, there are still many times when I don't really believe it.

I fell under Bing's spell way back at the beginning of the War when I first

heard his recording of IF I HAD MY WAY and he never lost his magic for me. In fact, I wrote to him in 1945 and was rewarded with a very nice letter which, of course I cherish to this day. In those days I collected all his 78s - all those I could afford! - and I still have those and wouldn't part with them under any circumstances. To my great joy I was given the SEASONS album at Christmas, also THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT - two wonderful albums and of course, we must always have particular affection for as Bing's last commercial recordings.

Did you hear Bing and Kathryn on Pete Murray's OPEN HOUSE on September 15 (1977). He sounded in great form then and was talking about the IT' show he had just recorded for Christmas and also the SEASONS album which he had finished the day before.

> I was surprised Bing was able to come here and complete his fortnight at the Palladium after that fall in March, and I've wondered many times if it wasn't all too much for him. In fact, I was worried all through that fortnight and found myself listening anxiously to news bulletins, half-expecting to hear that he had been taken ill. So, in a strange way, although October 14 was such a shock, I was almost expecting something of the kind.

We watched the Christmas Eve show on television but with very mixed feelings and found it impossible to enjoy this in the circumstances. It was so sad, especially when Bing said, right at the end: 'Goodbye - till next time'. But all Christmas was overshadowed by the thought that he was no longer around.

My first letter - the one I abandoned - was to tell you how delighted I am with BING. It is an absolute treasure of fascinating and interesting information and my only regret is that I have missed so many copies. For years I have collected all the snippets of information I could find about Bing from papers and magazines but to have all this collected together by people who obviously know their Bing in a special magazine is fantastic....

You know, during the War we used to listen regularly several times a week to Forces Favourites - a record programme so many will remember and in each programme there was usually a Bing record or two. In fact, on some occasions there were even three! I wonder if anyone remembers the occasion which gave me a thrill, when Bing was in London (I think it was late 1944) and he came to the studio and appeared 'live' on this programme, evening singing the signature tune (WITH A SONG IN MY HEART) 'off the cuff'! A delightful memory.

I do most sincerely hope that after the great success of his Palladium shows, as well as the others elsewhere, Bing did realise just how much he was loved and respected by so many people in this country. I'm glad for his sake that if he had to go it should happen as it did when he was still such a wonderful success. I cannot somehow picture as a frail old man with his glorious singing voice gone. As it turned out, and shocking as it was, we shall remember his as still happy and in his prime and his golden voice will always be with us.

See how I don't know when to stop when writing about Bing?

Editor: Its a common 'complaint' Margaret, and we enjoy it! We don't usually waste our valuable space in plaudits for BING but Margaret is so obviously pleased we made an exception. Incidentally, it was once reported that requests for Bing records on the programme Margaret mentioned, as well as others, were often three-quarters of the requests received! But for the sake of balance, they were 'thinned' out....how those memories come back! MANDY IS TWO and HELLO MOM were two very much requested records in those days - and are extremely difficult to obtain these days. It was also reported that at one time the military authorities in the Pacific theatre of operations, when the War was going strongly for the Japanese, asked those back at home NOT to play Crosby records because of the effect it had on home-sick and severely tried soldiers. Now we have the Japanese issuing rare recordings of Bing! Its a funny old world.....

SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS: The LPography remains available - just - at £2.50p post paid. Remember, it will not be reprinted within the for seeable future - and this is a good time to COMPLETE it as the full story can be told as far as new LPs are concerned. It is of 260 plus pages and lists more than 1000 LPs Bing has been associated with.

THE EXPECTED PROGRESS on the Mini Discography - for the full chronological listing of Bing's records up to his death from 1926 - owing to unforseen circumstances, one of them being INFLUENZA!! However, it IS in hand and this is the publication for which so many are waiting. For the sake of clarity, we are going to print one-side-of-the-paper only and while this doubled the size, we are certain it will be appreciated by members. THE COST OF THIS IS £1.50p post paid and there is no reason why members should reserve their copies from now on, complete with remittance to save extra postage to and fro. A full record will, of course, be maintained and the discography will be posted off as soon as it is available.

TO THE LIST OF DONATORS TO THE QUEENS JUBILEE APPEAL given earlier, please add the name of Mr. Geo. Lowcock (Gorton, Manchester).

IAN LAWRENCE, of 11 Landseer Avenue, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8NN is one of our extremely keen boy members and he has raised the suggestion of a bust of Bing. Older members will recall that two years ago such a project was on the launching pad but failed to get sufficient support. This offer was made by one of the executives of United Artists whose name I'm ashamed to say eludes me now, but I feel he was the man afterwards posted by UA to America. He was a sculptor, and he estimated the cost at £16 each.

Circumstances have certainly changed and, it is felt, perhaps the attitude to such an acquisition. The problem now is - whom do we approach? It is a little surprising perhaps that such a memento hasn't already appeared on behalf of some enterprising commercial undertaking, knowing how quickly off the mark they can be. But if any member knows a firm - or even a sculptor - who would be interested in such an effort would they please get in touch with the Editor who will gladly pursue the matter.

The circle of friends of our delightful MRS. ENA HOOLEY - through her Crosby activities, now ranges from Portsmouth and Southampton in the south, to Newcastle and beyond into Scotland in the North. And having met Ena a couple of times we find it easy to understand. You have only to meet her and you KNOW you have a friend. A lovely lady indeed. And her devotion to Bing led to it all. And now she tells us of a charming gesture, utterly in keeping with her good, kind self (if we can or cannot spare her blushes).

There is a charitable institution in Lynmouth, Devon, called THE MIDDLEHAM GARDENS TRUST, a registered charity. It maintains memorial gardens and, for the purpose of the charity, one may purchase one square foot of the garden (based on 1969 prices this was £5.00); you may have a rose planted in your name, and all kinds of other interesting offers. Well, Ena has purchased a square foot of this garden in memory of Bing to be named for him. Her novel and extremely thoughtful inspiration has fired the enthusiasm of the Trustees who are going to arrange to have Ena taken down to Lynton if, as is warmly hoped, Mrs. Crosby visits there perhaps in the spring of 1978. In fact, The Trust has sent the deeds, with the following letter to Kathryn:

"Dear Mrs. Crosby,

A kind friend, Mrs. F. E. Hooley of Winchester, who is a member of The International Crosby Circle has asked me to send you a Deed for a piece of garden, which is a Memorial Garden at Middleham, Lynmouth.

We are very pleased and proud to enclose the Deed and a picture and do hope you will be pleased with it. There is an evergreen oak tree, Querus Ilex,

on the actual spot of this piece of Garden, and we will place a label on this tree to indicate that it is in memory of your husband.

A new Rose Garden is also being formed, which has just one very small Ponda Rosa Pine Tree on it at present, and we will plant just one Standard Rose Tree also in memory of Bing and just a little 'Thank You' for the pleasure and happiness that he gave to millions of people all over the world.

You will note by the enclosed that I have the Honour to be the Mayor of Lynton and Lynmouth for this year, and I hope to be able to hold a little ceremony perhaps early in 1978 when the labels will be attached to the Oak and Rose Trees in our little Memorial Garden. We will then pay tribute to the kind lady whom we have to thank for the very pleasant idea.

Sincerely, R. R. Jacobs (Trustee)

Editor: And a very pleasant idea indeed. Our warmest thanks and congratulations to Ena coupled with the hope that she is now fully fit and the recent blizzards in that part of the world did not cause too much disruption.

Another reader pointed out the desirability of having a ROSE named after Bing; I am fairly certain this was done several years ago.

LATE TRADING POST! Gilbert McKee, 26 Whitehill Ave. Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland: HELP! I want BING & THE ADREWS SISTERS VOLS 1, 2, and 3 (Coral CPS 80 91, 112), and OLD MASTERS VOL 1 and 3 (AHL and AH 24), plus RHYTHM ON THE RANGE (CPS 81). Grateful for any of these - and any spare UK 78s and 45s.

ROY & ADRIENNE DODDS, 24 York St. Hasland, Chesterfield, Derbyshire will tape the TV news item of October 16 referred to herein if you send cassette or small reel, plus postage. Kind offer.

RICHARD PEARSON, 109 N-Wayne Street, Arlington, VA 22201 USA: I understand that Bing's records in your country have sold tremendously since Bing passed on. Over here there has only been a pathetic attempt to reissue some of Bing's Christmas LPs and a Great Hits LP. It has always been a great frustration to us here in the States that American Decca (MCA) in the last ten years or so hasn't even attempted to reissue many of Bing's records. Its never made any sense to me at all. One thing's for sure - there is no market for Crosby records if there are NONE TO BUY. I think MCA has done us a great disservice here. Thank God for the Crosby English reissues. Finally, I want to say how much I enjoy the Circle and certainly hope it keeps going...."

Editor: We'll keep going Richard! It is an incredible situation when Americans have to get their Crosby records from Britain - yet we have long known of the US record scene which has descended to the depths and pinned itself on all sorts of rock, Punk 'an all. BUT THINGS MAY BE CHANGING! And if they do, the reissue of all the OLD MASTERS albums, plus BING'S HOLLYWOOD, all fifteen albums, are among the most sought-after albums in our experience. Another album that remains exceptionally elusive is the "sister" album to HOME ON THE RANGE, namely TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL.

And now we have reached the point yourEditor dreads - always, and without fail. The end of the issue; and I eye the large pile of letters/articles I fully intended using. And have NOT....it is sad for me. I'm almost frightened to even glance thro' them again - or I shall find myself scrapping this and starting all over again!

And that I'm afraid I just cannot contemplate, either. But thanks for those letters; ALL are read and enjoyed. So, despite disappointments, please keep them coming. And now it really is, as Bing would say, "Aloha on a Steel Guitar - or, more melodiously, AUF WIEDERSEHEN!

After the drive from Stranraer the sun at Turnberry was golden, the sky was blue - and Bing was red! Yes in red with that yellow hat....after all those years of listening to Bing, reading about him, seeing him on the screen, there he was, unbelievably, in person. Without doubt one of the really great moments of my life and that first colourful view of Bing, in such glorious weather, has been burned into my memory for ever.

When a suitable opportunity presented itself, I approached Bing and asked if he would care to say a few words into my portable tape-recorder for all the admirers from Ireland who could not come with us....."...Oh, I'm sorry they couldn't come," said Bing, "its a glorious day here in Scotland with some excellent golfers competing here...a really glorious occasion because all the money goes to cancer relief - and that's a cause we're all deeply concerned about...this is gonna provide some funds..." Here Bing had to drive off and one can hear him on the tape exclaiming "Good Ball!". Then he came back to me....."that thing still running? (my recorder)...."Well, I would like to say Hello to my friends in Northern Ireland..."

I said "Its absolutely wonderful," and Bing look quizzically at me, that look we've seen on film a million times, "What's wonderful?" he asked. "Bing, being here with you, lovely day and all..."

Bing laughed: "Aw, come on - you can do better than that!" But the smile with which it was said left us in no doubt that Bing was finding it a lovely day, too.

Taking our photos turned out to be quite something, too. I lined Bing up for the shot. "Boy!" shouted Bing, "you Ain't gonna take that snap...." He came over to me - and pulled away the strap which was lying across the lens! He went back to pose again - and again I got the "Boy, you still akn't gonna get that picture..." This time he came over and tucked the camera case well away from the front....it must have been nerves of a kind, or delight, for normally I take pictures quite efficiently! "Right boy, NOW you can go ahead..." And what a cracker of a photograph it turned out to be, with Bing presenting a marvellous grin.

Now I ask you, is there another VIP who would have taken the trouble that Bing went to? There can be no doubt about it; everything they say about Bing Crosby is true, and then some!

I'm not ashamed to say that travelling home from Turnberry in Scotland to auld Ireland had a dream-like quality. I had, amidst all the still glowing excitement, a touch of sadness that it was unlikely I would ever meet Bing again. For truly, it is an experience one would love to repeat.

Then damme, a few weeks later - and I met him again, in London! In the previous issue of the magazine it remarked "members would be making their way to the Parkinson Show by coach, rakl, bus, car...." I came by plane - from Belfast! I'm not going over the Parkinson Show again except to say that Bing was really sensational (as you all now know), but after the show I bumped into Geo O'Reilly the Irish impressario - and presto! I was back-stage and there was Bing again.

"Hey, you were up there in Scotland with me," he exclaimed immediately (and consider the hundreds or thousands he'd met since then!) "how did the photos turn out?" I was able to show them to him....and present any he wanted. "Sure, I'd like this," he said, putting one in his pocket.

Earlier in Soho I'd bought one of the Totems (£1008) and asked Bing to autograph it. "Sure, " said Bing, "Let's have it....Hey! look at this everyone...this was when I was making MISSISSIPPI....God, that's a long time ago." Bing seemed to be moved by this photograph on the album; he looked at it a long time....."had a lotta fun making that film, he said in a temporarily far-away voice....He then signed the reverse of the Totem sleeve "To Noel, Bing Crosby".

"That was a great day in Scotland - hope you enjoyed yourself," went on Bing. "Best day in my life," I said. "Aw...go on, but I've got to go now, people waiting for me...I'll see you again." He took my hand and gave it a good, strong, shake. "All the best, Bing," I said, "and...thanks for everything."

I MUST ADD THIS: DUE TO THE "TROUBLES" HERE IN NORTHERN IRELAND I HAVE LOST TWO HOMES IN TWO YEARS, HAVE HAD SEVERAL CLOSE CALLS WITH BOMBS, SHOOTINGS, &C, AND WITH A WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN TO CARE FOR THINGS COULD REALLY ONE DOWN. BUT I MAINTAIN THAT MY APPRECIATION OF BING THRO' THE YEARS WITH HIS RECORDINGS SO FULL OF HOPE, LOVE AND KINDNESS HAS REALLY HEPED ME THROUGH SOME VERY BAD TIMES. THANKS A MILLION, BING.

Editor: A starkly sombre ending to an otherwise lyrical description of yet another reader's meetings with Bing Crosby. And one that will be particularly appreciated by Bing himself.

JOE PARKER, 11 Heathpark, Heathfield, Ayr, Ayrshire: (Met Bing on the golf course, and...): We had lots of fun going round the course, during which I was able to exercise my Spanish. Bing and Harry speak that language fluently and we had some laughs over it. Harry and Nathaniel are two of the nicest people one could meet, fully worthy of their famous father. To show Bing at his best - though, that's not right - Bing at his normal - we met some young Irish schoolgirls on the Ailsa course. Bing immediately broke off his practicing and posed for photographs, signed autographs and gave them a chorus of DEAR OLD DONEGAL. We all laughed when one of the girls said: "My mother will KILL me - she loves you, Mr. Crosby - and here am I having my picture taken with you!"

I have that picture and if we can trace this Irish colleen I would gladly send her a copy.

Editor: Bing and family's fluent Spanish must be based on their Mexican-home sojourns! Though it is understood Bing is fluent in several other languages. Seems to me some little known local paper may have carried this story, so if anyone can offer a clue on these schoolgirls it would be nice.

MARC MATELART, 16 Avenue Albert 1, 1420 Braine-L'Alleud, BELGIUM: What I'd like to know is if the ICC has published brochures or booklets about Bing's career? I can hardly make a valuable participation to the Circle as almost all the material related to Bing and the American cinema and show-business comes from the USA and England, but I could maybe send you references of records published on the Continent, or got from specialised shops in England that are not listed in the magazine - at least, not in the last issue.

Some members who read French could maybe interested in copies of very good articles about Bing published in Cine-Revue by Joe Van Cottom, a very famous Belgian journalist. He has published thousands of articles about Hollywood and the stars during several decades. Articles have been published about Bing in the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's. Mr. van Cottom met Bing many times, I think.

To end with, I'd like to ask you if you know the address of the International Al Jolson Society in England, and if Bob Hope has a fan-club in England or the USA? Thank you in advance....cordially yours

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Editor: There's a new avenue for those relentless searchers of things Crosby - even if they have to learn French first! But as you will have noted, Marc's English is very good indeed. Seems to me knowledge of Bing records issued on the Continent would indeed be an excellent thing for our discographers. You see Marc's address. Barrie Anderton, 70 Southcroft Rd. Bournemouth, Hants for Jolson society; we know of no Bob Hope society. End of issue!